

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

2286

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES,

2001 - 2002

Subject: Senate Committee on the Budget

Date: Thu, 18 Apr 2002 09:39:13 -0800

From: "Anne Sudkamp (and Tim Walker)" <fnacs1@uaf.edu>

To: Mindy_Rowland@legis.state.ak.us

My family and I strongly support implementation of a State income tax. We denounce further budget cuts, especially reducing welfare eligibility for Alaska PFD recipients.

Anne Sudkamp
PO Box 83304
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Residence (not mailing) address:
1729 Flatpick Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Subject: comments for Senate Finance Committee

Date: Thu, 18 Apr 2002 10:47:53 -0700 (PDT)

From: Lewis Overton <lewy_o@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: lewy@iname.com

To: Mindy_Rowland@legis.state.ak.us

09:08 4/18/2002

Senate Committee on the Budget

mindy_rowland@legis.state.ak.us

First, thank you for listening. I write to protest what I see as a short sighted, head-in-the-sand approach to state funding without benefit of a long term financial plan. I object. This is not what I elected my senator and representatives to do.

The house may be "holding the line on spending", but I feel very threatened. The proposed budget endangers both quality of life and public safety. The excuse is to avoid using dividends from the Permanent Fund and to avoid taxing Alaskans in order to provide services to Alaskans. But state provided services are needed. Some things we cannot do for ourselves and must do either collectively or not at all.

I can't provide for myself the state parks that have been developed over the years. I might buy land and build or buy a cabin out Chena Hot Springs Road, or at Harding Lake, or Birch Lake, but I certainly cannot provide my own recreational site at all of these. I am unwilling to carry a gun and go through the training necessary to become my own Alaska State Trooper. I doubt that I could perform a competent food service inspection for every place where I dine. Perhaps Fairbanks could do it for me, but what of those places outside a city? Besides, shifting the burden from state to city saves no money. It increases costs by increasing overhead through redundancy. Cuts causing reduction of timber sales directly cost us all.

So I don't see the point of this incessant cutting. Some services are needed and are best provided on a shared basis, through the state. Using the Permanent Fund dividends is not the horror it is made out to be; that was the original intent of the fund. I was here when it began and I collected that first \$1,000 dividend. Even if the fund would not support our needs, Alaskans are very lightly taxed. We, as a group, can certainly afford to pay our own way, but the idea of "doing it all ourselves" is quaint at best. Anachronistic is a better word.

The last quarter century has seen a steady growth in quality of life. I like the diverse definitions of a high quality of life, but my choice includes some peace of mind from a good public safety and court system, safe places to eat and to visit, outdoor recreation in a clean area, and not too many people. The only thing I see the current budget proposal providing is not too many people. Some will leave. Not a good way to proceed.

Lewis Overton
3281 Edby Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709-2657
907.479.6224
lewy_o@yahoo.com

Do You Yahoo!?

Subject: SB 289

Date: Thu, 18 Apr 2002 11:14:57 -0800

From: "Dael Devenport" <daeld@hotmail.com>

To: Mindy_Rowland@legis.state.ak.us

I am concerned about the reduction in the EMS Grants Program. I am an EMT-II in the Copper River Valley. This summer we are expecting a huge increase in the number of tourists passing through our area due to a new Princess Tours Lodge and a new National Park Service Visitor Center. Even with our current EMS support, we do not have adequate resources to cover the number of people or the large area. If only one tour bus was involved in an accident, we would not be able to provide the care needed even if we pooled all of the EMS resources in the entire Copper River region. If the EMS Grants Program is reduced, our ability to provide adequate medical care to people in our area will be further diminished. This means that people will die for reasons that could be prevented with adequate EMS support. Please reconsider the reduction of the EMS Grants Program.

Thank you,
Dael A. Devenport
EMT-II
Copper River EMS

Chat with friends online, try MSN Messenger: <http://messenger.msn.com>

2001-2003

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Alaska PTA

everychild.onevoice.

FAX TRANSMITTAL FORM

email address: ak_office@pta.org
Website: akpta@pta.org

To **Senate**
Name: **Finance**

From

465-2187

Alaska PTA

Organization Name/Dept:
CC:

PO Box 201496
Anchorage, Alaska 99520-1496
907-279-9345 office
907-222-2401 fax

Fax number:

- Urgent
- For Review
- Please Comment
- Please Reply

Date sent:

04-18-02

Time sent:

9:55 am

Number of pages including cover page:

2

Message:

Corrected version of
letter sent to LIOs.

Please share as
testimony with ALL
members of Senate
Finance Committee.

Thank You

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Office Phone: 907-279-9345
Fax: 907-222-2401
Email: ak_office@pta.org
Website: <http://www.akpta.org>

PO Box 201496
Anchorage, AK 99520-1496

Alaska
PTA

everychild.one voice.

April 18, 2002

To members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The annual state PTA convention is happening today in Anchorage concurrently with this opportunity to testify. Thus, many of us are unable to personally testify at our local LIOs. On behalf of the 13,000 strong membership of the Alaska State PTA, we STRONGLY urge you to increase education funding by the \$190 per student level for FY 03. Increased education funding is consistently one of our most important priorities as we witness the erosion of quality education for our students due to ongoing inflation and other increased costs.

Members of PTA units throughout the state can testify to the fact that we are being called upon more and more to raise funds locally to help meet basic educational needs within our schools. Each year we witness the loss of essential programs that motivate our children to learn and succeed. We are losing the competitive edge in attracting excellent teachers and administrators to come to Alaska. This is happening at a time when we have established higher standards and greater expectations for our students.

We understand the need to solve the state fiscal gap, but not at the expense of your mandated duty to maintain a strong school system statewide. Quality education for Alaska's children must be the #1 priority. Please vote to increase state education funding.



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 289 / HB 403 Operating Budget, dated April 17, 2002
bill # / subject

Honorable Senators of the Finance Committee:

I ask you to seriously consider not cutting education any further. Education funding has been eroded to the point that that our district is no longer able to offer competitive compensation packages to attract and keep the best and brightest teachers for our kids.

The teachers we have right now, were hired in the days when the Kenai Peninsula School District was able to go down to the lower 48 and pick from the best of the best at every job fair. Those days are gone. Today we are encouraging our most experienced teachers to LEAVE our schools in a sad attempt to make up for the lack of state funding.

Does anyone remember the days when:

There was an income tax.

There was no permanent fund dividend.

Education was a priority.

Today:

There is no income tax.

There is a permanent fund dividend

Education is NOT a priority.

Inflation alone costs our schools \$14.8 million dollars this year alone. Please increase the foundation formula. Our children and our schools deserve to be a priority. Quality schools build strong citizens and strong communities.

Strong public schools prepare children for jobs of the 21st century.

FUND EDUCATION FIRST BEFORE FUNDING ANYTHING ELSE.

Signed: Bill Vedders

Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 1484 Kenai, Alaska 99611

Address

283-3472

Phone number

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION FROM THE
ALASKA CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

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Phone: 907-258-0044 Fax 907-258-0288

Email: akclu@alaska.net

To: SENATOR HOFFMAN Fax No.: 907-465-4523

With: SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

From: ROBIN SMITH Date: 4-17-02

Number of Pages in Transmission (Including Cover Sheet): _____

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TRANSMITTED FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE ADDRESSEE.
SHOULD YOU RECEIVE THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR, PLEASE
CALL ME IMMEDIATELY BY COLLECT PHONE CALL AND MAIL THE
COMMUNICATION TO ME AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS BY FIRST CLASS
MAIL. THANK YOU.**

NOTES:

please enter my testimony into the
public record for the budget

THANK YOU

I am appalled that you are again defunding medically necessary abortions for low-income women. Under the funding scheme proposed by HB 403, women with epilepsy, heart disease, cancer, and many other conditions for whom pregnancy involves severe health consequences, but not death, would be denied abortion coverage. This plan works against families who are living below the poverty line. You are not taking into consideration the woman's health and the impact on her capacity to care for herself or her existing family that probably includes children.

Rather than being a cost saving measure, this act will actually cost Alaska more money. If these women qualify for this medical care then they will qualify for pregnancy coverage. The average public cost of coverage for an unplanned pregnancy and infant care for one year is approximately \$30,000. In addition the State will be forced back into litigation in what is sure to be a losing battle, wasting the State's time and money in an era of severe budget shortfalls.

The Alaska Supreme Court unanimously rejected the defunding last year. Yet the Republican majority in the legislature consistently flout the checks and balances of our government when they persist in trying to override the judicial branch. This is un-American. I question your commitment to the Alaska and US Constitution.

I understand you might not want to pay for this. There are many things the government pays for that I do not support and may abhor. You are making these decisions based on your own religious and moral beliefs. It is not your job to make such moral decisions for the entire state. Just as I would not force any woman to have an abortion how dare you force a woman to carry a problem pregnancy to term.

Robin J. Smith
ROBIN SMITH
14100 JARVI DRIVE
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515
907-345-4407

FROM : ALASKA PTA EveryChild OneVoice FAX NO. : 1907222401

Apr. 18 2002 08:23AM P1

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Alaska PTA

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April 18, 2002

To members of the Senate Finance Committee:

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We understand the need to solve the state fiscal gap, but not at the expense of your mandated duty to maintain a strong school system statewide. Quality education for Alaska's children must be the #1 priority. Please vote to increase state education funding.

50 Front Street, Suite 203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-225-9675
Fax: 907-225-8546

STATE OF ALASKA
Legislative Information Office



Fax

To: *Senate Finance* From: *Ketchikan LIO*
Fax: Date: *04.18.02*
Phone: Pages:
Re:

Budget testimony - WRITTEN

Visit our website at: www.legis.state.ak.us/lios/ketchikan/index.htm

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Ketchikan_LIO@legis.state.ak.us

50 Front St., Suite 203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Kasey A. Keller
ADDRESS: 2526 4th Ave
Ketchikan Alaska
PHONE: 907-247-2273 wk, 7-2664 HM

BILL# or SUBJECT: Tobacco Prevention & Control

COMMITTEE: _____

Master Tobacco Settlement Funds.

These funds have provided programs like mine
of the fabulous opportunity to enter elementary
through high school classrooms to educate
our youth on the deadly effects of tobacco use
& environmental tobacco smoke. Today I ask
the legislature to allot the full 20% of the
master tobacco settlement funds to tobacco
prevention, education & cessation programs
as it is intended. Help protect Alaskas youth &
children from the tobacco industry. Help create
& maintain healthy schools & communities by
~~allocating the full 20% of settlement funds to these very essential programs.~~
allocating the full 20% of settlement funds
to these very essential programs.

Thank you!

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Ketchikan_LIO@legis.state.ak.us

50 Front St., Suite 203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901Phone: (907) 225-9675
Fax: (907) 225-8546**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

NAME: Pat Chapman - KGH Tobacco Cessation Program
 ADDRESS: 126 Washington Ave
Ketchikan, AK 99901
 PHONE: 907-247-4330

BILL# or SUBJECT: Subcommittee Budget proposalsCOMMITTEE: Senate Finance

Tobacco program in KETCHIKAN provides free Cessation program to All low income residents of the Gateway Borough Area, as well as provide assistance with the Nicotine Replacement therapy drugs. As Medicaid is not paying for this service even though they receive the tobacco funding we need extra funding to continue to provide this service to the increased population that is trying quit smoking.

The program in Ketchikan has a very good track record of 42% of the clients still non-smokers after one year of finishing the program. This is in line with the new type of Cessation / NRT programs started nation wide with the tobacco settlement funds.

I urge you to give the tobacco Prevention and Control the total amount of the 20% to this program so we can expand to serve more clients, with the funds the tobacco industry is providing.

This will reduce the Medicaid costs as these clients will have less medical problems in the future

Pat Chapman

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Ketchikan_LIO@legis.state.ak.us

50 Front St., Suite 203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901Phone: (907) 225-9675
Fax: (907) 225-8546**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**NAME: Rebecca Kleinschmidt
ADDRESS: 7939 S. Dongas
Ketchikan, AK 99901
PHONE: 907-225-5878BILL# or SUBJECT: Tobacco Settlement Funds

COMMITTEE: _____

Tobacco use is the #1 cause of preventable death - killing
more Americans each year than murder, suicide, drug use,
alcohol use, car accidents + AIDS combined. In addition
to these 350,000 deaths yearly, over 100,000 NON-SMOKING
Americans die due to exposure to second hand
smoke.

Further, Alaska has one of the top prevalence rates -
topping a 27% rate of use.

In light of these facts - allocating a near 1/5 - or 20%
of the 25 million dollar tobacco settlement to
tobacco prevention and cessation is a necessity.

I urge you to use these tobacco funds how they were
intended to be used - to treat + prevent tobacco
addiction in the State of Alaska.

Thank you

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Ketchikan_LIO@legis.state.ak.us

50 Front St., Suite 203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Valvee Price
ADDRESS: 2926 Baranof Ave
Ketchikan Alaska 99901
PHONE: 907 247-2926

BILL# or SUBJECT: Tobacco Settlement

COMMITTEE: Rep. Ketchikan Tobacco Alliance - ADFY

The tobacco settlement money gives opportunity ^{to} ~~to~~ educate businesses: Schools on the ~~deadly~~ ^{harmful} effects of tobacco. The allocated 20% will: can continue to counter-market aggressive tobacco companies. This will help us create a firm foundation of prevention of tobacco use in Ketchikan for our youth. We encourage you to allocate the full 20% of the tobacco settlement. With this funding ~~the~~ the prevention: cessation resources will be available -

-Thank you-

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Ketchikan_LIO@legis.state.ak.us

50 Front St., Suite 203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: ED ZASTROW
ADDRESS: 3530 DENALI AVE
KTN ALASKA
PHONE: 907-225-2814

SANITATION

BILL# or SUBJECT: STATE BUDGET- DEC - FOOD SAFETY & SANITATION

COMMITTEE: SENATE FINANCE SUB.COM. BUDGET PROPOSALS

MY NAME ED ZASTROW - 3530 DENALI - KTN - 48 years
I AM SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE LOCAL
CHAPTER OF FAARP - AS THEIR PRESIDENT
AND KTN'S CENTER-SITE COUNCIL PRES.
A LARGE GROUP OF SENIOR CITIZENS

WE ASK THAT THE PROPOSED
REDUCTION OF FOOD SAFETY & SANITATION
PROGRAM OF DEC - NOT BECOME A
REALITY - FULL STATE FUNDING
TO THIS PROGRAM IS REQUESTED
- POSSIBLE CLOSURE & MAJOR
REDUCTION OF FOOD SERVICES TO
OUR SENIORS HERE IN KETCHIKAN
IS UNACCEPTABLE

Sitka Legislative Information Office
Marie Murray, LIO Officer

210 Lake Street
Sitka, AK 99835-7561

907-747-6276
Fax: 907-747-5807
email: Sitka_LIO@legis.state.ak.us



Date: 4-19-02

To: Senate Finance Committee

Fax: 907-465-2187

From: Scott McAdams

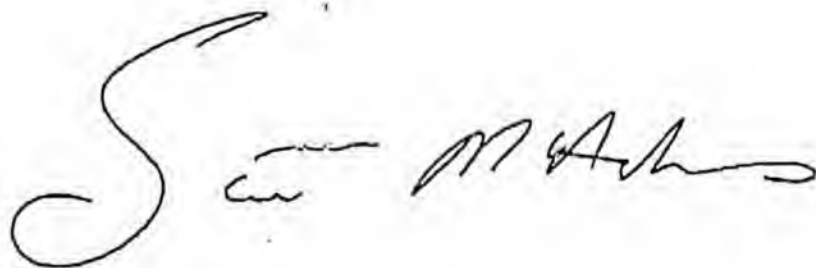
Message:

Mr. McAdams asked that we
fax his testimony, even though he
did verbally testify.

Thank you

I would like to express my support for maintaining and advancing health and human service programs in the new state budget. Sitka is a community that is blessed with several outstanding community and social service agencies. Our community relies heavily not only on the services these agencies provide, but also on the livable income jobs these agencies provide local professionals. I salute and admire agencies such as Center for Community Youth Advocated of Sitka, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Sitkans Against Family Violence, Islands Counseling, SEARHC, Sitka Prevention and Treatment Services, D.F.Y.S. and others for doing their part to help keep our community healthy and safe. Most of these programs survive on either direct funding from the state of Alaska, or grant funds from the state.

Growing up as a kid in Petersburg during the late 70's and early 80's, I have very vivid memories of the family problems and heart ache created in the community by rampant drug and alcohol abuse. I am very happy to say that I believe that the communities in our region are much healthier today. However, there is much work still to be done, and I am afraid that if the mechanisms that provide alcohol and drug treatment and prevention are cut in the budgetary process, it will be our children and families who suffer the most. Please help keep our communities sober and healthy by maintaining Health and Human services funding at it's current levels.



Scott McAclams

4/19/02



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 403 / SB 289 Operating Budget, dated April 17, 2002
bill # / subject

FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS I HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE GOAL OF BUDGET CUTTING BY THE MAJORITY UNTIL THE HEARD PEOPLE CRY "UNCLE." WELL, I HAVE BEEN CRYING & CRYING UNCLE ABOUT THE CUTS, TAX ME, CAP THE PERM. FUND, REDUCE THE PERM FUND DIVIDEND. - THIS IS SO WRONG. WE CANNOT CUT OUR WAY TO ECONOMIC HEALTH. EDUCATION MUST BE INCREASED. AS A 39 YEAR VOTING RESIDENT I HAVE SEEN THE UPS & DOWN - BUT RECALL WHEN WE WERE A 1st CLASS STATE

Signed: MARION NELSON
Testifier

SELF
Representing (optional)

PO Box 1535
Address

907-283-4632
Phone number

WHEN IT CAME TO EDUCATION, WE ARE A
LONG WAY FROM IT NOW. I PERSONALLY
GIVE MY PFD CHECK TO THE TWO ELEM-
ENTARY CLASSROOMS OF MY YOUNGEST
GRANDKIDS FOR BASIC SUPPLIES.

STOP THIS MADNESS.

- FUND ^{RAISE FUNDING} THE SCHOOLS & ^{RAISE FUNDING} EDUCATORS SALARIES
- CHANGE THE FUNDING FORMULA -
- CHANGE THE DESIGNATION OF THE HOUSING -
(WE ARE NOT AN ANCHORAGE COMPARABLE)
- FUND PARKS
- FUND HWAY MAINTENANCE/FERRIES.
- FUND TROOPERS
- FUND CHILDRENS SERVICES
- FUND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR OUR
DISABLED.
- FUND TOURISM

Marion Nelson

3/17/02

TO: Senate Finance Committee

Re: Budget hearings - SB 289

From: James E. Fisher, 171 Farnsworth Blvd., Solodtna, AK 99669
Fax: 262-9641 phone: 262-9601

Will you be able look the Alaska public in the eye to explain how you have failed to institute reasonable financial support for their essential state services?

Since the Senate has apparently approximated the General Fund budget proposed by the House, even more moderate Senate changes would result in painful slashes for essential education, public health and safety. I ask will those cuts:

1. In any way enhance the overall lives of all Alaskan residents, even those who only must worry about the safety of such a simple matter as eating in a restaurant?
2. How can the estimated reductions of 19-23, or more, fewer State Troopers adequately respond to death, disaster and critical search and rescue for any one, or all, of us?
3. How can our children receive even the level of education now available, under our presently stressed financial school systems?

Answering the apparent factual situation of these questions, challenges the Senate to explain the multiple adverse impacts that will affect your constituents and our neighbors.

Won't failure to avoid the adverse impacts outlined above, look like a failure of nerve of the Senate?

(SenFin31702 tele-hearing)

*Confirmation
of testimony - 4/17/02
J.E.F.*



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 403 / SB 289 Operating Budget, dated April 17, 2002
Bill # / subject

I support HB 403 and SB 289. Please don't forget \$190 dollars per student (32.7 million) Increase State funding in FY 03. This funding is important if you want productive children. I urge you to increase funding for schools. Alaska's Children / Alaska's future.

Signed: Ms. Priscilla J. Byers
Testifier

Representing (optional)
P.O. Box 805, Soldotna, Alaska 99669
Address

407 / 262 6188
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 403 / SB 289 Operating Budget, dated April 17, 2002
bill # / subject

Please understand that when you cut financial support for child protection, public safety, mental health services, substance abuse treatment and prevention, and medical care, you increase the cost to the State, the community, and our society in the future. Much of what is done in the areas outlined above is prevention work. Child protection services focus much of the resources on preventing child abuse and neglect. Public safety personnel help to prevent crime, domestic violence, child abuse, etc. The list goes on. Please do not be short-sighted. The cuts you make on the backs of the children & poor today will cost all of us in the future. ~~Put~~ Please support these services and put the funds back in the budget.

Signed: Voter Margit Cox

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 4137 Soldotna, AK 99689
Address

202-6365
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 403 / SB 289 Operating Budget, dated April 17, 2002
bill # / subject general Mental Health fund

I think that this cut is targeting the most vulnerable population who are not the majority of the voting population - I urge you to consider what an impact this will have on the local community and AK as a whole -

Please consider to put money back into family preservation ^{grant} - Also ^{the} reduction in foster care ^{payments} - ~~the~~ the families that foster our children are a vital part of our resources
Thank-you for your time

Signed: A. J. [Signature]
Testifier

Voter

Representing (optional)

Box 1388 Soldotna AK 99669
Address

760-3860
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

DILLINGHAM
Legislative Information Office

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance ⁴⁶⁵⁻²¹⁸⁷
(committee name)

committee on budget, dated 4-17-02
(bill# / subject)

Signed:

Jeanifa Jones-Molina
Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 857, Dillingham Ak 99576
Address

907-842-3863
Telephone

Alaska's Children, Alaska's Future

Give our schools your FULL support

WHEREAS, our Alaska Constitution mandates that the state provide an education system that offers all our children the opportunity to succeed in life.

WHEREAS, providing an adequate education is not a rural or an urban issue. It's an *Alaskan* issue.

WHEREAS, research shows that quality teachers are the most significant factor in student achievement, and that teachers get the job done better with a qualified team of support staff and administrators.

WHEREAS, quality educators are linked to competitive compensation; and in this time of nationwide shortages, school districts must have the ability to attract and retain quality education professionals.

WHEREAS, each public school is expected to implement new standards for teaching and learning, however the State of Alaska has failed to fund the total costs associated with successful implementation of new school standards.

WHEREAS, from fiscal year 1990 to 2000, inflation has eroded the school foundation funding program by 25%, some \$200 million.

WHEREAS, Alaska ranks dead last among the states in K-12 education spending as a percentage of total net spending, and the percentage decline in per pupil spending over the past two decades is the highest in the country.

WHEREAS, this prolonged decline in school funding has occurred while the state is asking educators to raise student standards.

WHEREAS, educators are increasingly being expected to solve many of the problems of our larger society.

WHEREAS, each child is entitled to a first class opportunity to learn. However, in too many schools instructional materials are inadequate, textbooks are out-of-date, class sizes are too large, the needs of many special needs students are unmet and school districts lack the resources to attract and retain quality teachers, administrators and education support professionals.

WHEREAS, good schools are essential to a vibrant quality of life in Alaska. The quality of our schools will affect our ability as a state to attract quality business and commerce and the jobs collateral to this development.

Now, therefore

I

Proclaim my support for Alaska's Children, Alaska Future, a statewide campaign to achieve proper funding of our schools, and adequate funding for every Alaskan student.

Signed this 17 day of April, 2002.

PO Box 170
99576

Alaska's Children, Alaska's Future

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Now, therefore,

I *Wesley Duncan*

Proclaim my support for Alaska's Children, Alaska Future, a statewide campaign to achieve proper funding of our schools, and adequate funding for every Alaskan student.

Signed this *17th* day of *April*, 2002.

P.O. Box 170
 Billingsham
 99570

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I, Ina B. Baker Mary B. Baker

Proclaim my support for Alaska's Children, Alaska Future, a statewide campaign to achieve proper funding of our schools, and adequate funding for every Alaskan student.

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Now, therefore,

I, Denise Lisac,

Proclaim my support for Alaska's Children, Alaska Future, a statewide campaign to achieve proper funding of our schools, and adequate funding for every Alaskan student.

Signed this 17 day of April, 2002.

P.O. Box 170
Dillingham, Ak 99576

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Now, therefore,

I

Leanne Goetchius

Proclaim my support for Alaska's Children, Alaska Future, a statewide campaign to achieve proper funding of our schools, and adequate funding for every Alaskan student.

Signed this 17th day of April, 2002.

*P.O. Box 170
Dillingham, Ak 99576*

To whom it may concern,

As an elementary teacher I am given a set amount to purchase materials for my classroom for the following year. In this purchase I am required to purchase any consumable workbook items, art supplies, classroom decorations, educational resource guides and any other materials that I might need for my students. This amount this year was \$750. Which is a lot of money, however it allows me to spend approximately \$41.67 per student in a classroom of 18 students. That might seem like a sufficient amount if you have not priced classroom materials recently.

Per student: Spelling workbook \$11

Handwriting workbook \$7

Reading workbooks \$27 (3 books @\$9).

Those three items alone equals \$45 and that does not include 20% for shipping.

Where am I supposed to find the necessary money for math manipulatives, literature, writing program, art materials, computer software, science experiments, maps, or office supplies? If you can answer that, you will be earning your salary.

Sincerely,

Amy Riggan

Amy Riggan

Elementary Teacher

Dillingham, Alaska

P.O. BOX 170
99576

To the legislators of the state of Alaska,

I live and teach in the community of Dillingham. This small community has a sales tax, property tax, and federal income tax along with many other taxes. I realize that it is difficult to fund all needs of Alaska's citizens equitably, but that is your responsibility. Our rural schools need money to help recruit and keep teachers, maintain school buildings, and supply children with textbooks and materials. The children of our communities are our future. Please provide the means to educate them well.

Sincerely,

Nancy Westanmo-Head
Nancy Westanmo-Head

P.O. Box 170

Dillingham 99576

4-17-02

Alaska's Children, Alaska's Future

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Now, therefore,

I, Bridget McArthur, B. McArthur

President of support for Alaska's Children, Alaska Future, a statewide campaign to achieve proper funding of our schools, and adequate funding for every Alaskan student.

Signed this 17 day of April, 2002.

P.O. Box 170

Sillingham, Ak 99576



Alaska State Legislature
Written Testimony Form

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Fin Committee on
SB 289 dated 4/17/02
(bill/sub) (Committee Name)

I would like to say that I am strongly opposed to this Bill. 20% may not seem like alot ~~across~~ the Board, but to small rural agencies it could mean the closing of that agency. Cutting Family Preservation Grants along with Alcohol, mental Health, & ILP are going to have a huge impact going on Rural Communities that have limited resources already. Please consider these cuts, and the impacts they will have.

Testifier Signature

Representing: (Optional)

Address

Phone Number

Nicole Songer

Cordeaux Family Resource Center

Box 2116 Cordeaux AK 99574

907-424-5674



Alaska State Legislature
Written Testimony Form

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate FIN Committee on
(Committee Name)
Senate Bill 289, dated April 17 - 2002
(bill/subj)

I want to enter my testimony on Senate Bill 289

I want to see our alcohol and drug abuse programs kept going. If there are cuts I feel that is going to hurt the people who need the services from the counselors who are helping them with these problems.

If you cut back now I'm concerned about more cuts taking place in the future.

If people can't get help there is going to be more problems and this in the long run is going to cost the state more money.

Testifier Signature

Gerrine Erickson Emroy

Representing: (Optional)

Salvation Army and other service agencies

Address

P.O. Box 2401 Cordova Alaska 99574

Phone Number

1-907-424-3134



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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

committee on Emergency Services/Drug + Alcohol dated 4/17/02
(Bill/subject)

I am asking you to not cut Emergency Services. This is such an important service for our community and our people.

Please do not cut funding for mental Health Services and Drug/Alcohol services. We need to be able to work in our communities to support families and treat Substance Abuse so that our community and the people who live here live a better life.
Thank You!

Signed: Elizabeth Hill, MEd, LPI
(testifier)

Various Community Services
(Representing / Original)

P.O. Box 1842
(Address)

Seward, AK 99664
(Phone No.)



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Justice
 (committee name)
 committee on drug/alcohol, dated 4-17-02
 (bill/subject)

Cutting the drug and alcohol funding will directly affect families I work with and many people in our community who are working hard to make positive improvements in themselves and their families. The support systems are very important for them as these groups and counselors are there for help and guidance, to help them achieve their goals to become drug and alcohol independence and healthy families.

Signed:

Carilyn Tanner
 (Testifier)

local business owner, Sea View Community Services
 (Representing / Optional) parent/grandparent

 (Address)

 (Phone No.)

Subject: SB 289

Date: Wed, 17 Apr 2002 15:00:03 -0800

From: "Greg Smith" <gsmith@cvinternet.net>

To: <Mindy_Rowland@legis.state.ak.us>

To whom it may concern:

I was recently made aware of the state's intention to cut funding for the statewide EMS system. It is difficult for me to understand, following the events of September 11th, how any state government could justify funding reductions to emergency services. Being a volunteer EMT-I and firefighter, it pains me to think that our elected officials regard the sacrifices we make daily as not important enough for full funding. This reduction will not be felt as harshly in larger cities, but in areas such as ours where there is no tax base to support EMS, it would be a dagger to the heart. I'm positive that reductions in funding for statewide EMS would hit our area extremely hard, hard enough to ensure degraded service and the deadly consequences that result. There are many unexplored alternatives to balancing the budget that this state has not even bothered to explore. Case in point, increasing the tax levied on oil producers operating in the State of Alaska. These organizations have vested interests in this state. They are unwilling to provide corporate contributions to support essential services like EMS when requested and pay sub-standard tax percentages on the oil they pump from this state daily. If September 11th has taught us anything, it's to respect and support emergency services for the risks they take and the sacrifices they make every day. Any legislator that supports the reduction of funding for statewide EMS services does not respect what I do, the risks I take and the sacrifices I make in providing emergency services to my community. As a result, any legislator supporting such action will not see respect from me in the form of my vote on election day. Please find another way to balance the budget and leave essential, life saving services like EMS fully funded.

Sincerely;

Gregory L Smith
Gakona, Alaska 99586

Subject: State - EMS Funding

Date: Wed, 17 Apr 2002 16:35:35 -0800

From: Ken & Vera Roberson <owlkrvr@alaska.net>

To: Mindy_Rowland@legis.state.ak.us

Hello: I am Ken Roberson, Vice Chairman of Copper River EMS Council, Inc. in Glennallen, AK. I have served as a volunteer with our service for over 19 years. We serve an area of about 24,000 square miles (the size of West Virginia) with 40 volunteer EMT, ETT and Drivers plus one paid administrator position. Our road service area is in excess of 500 miles and we make 130 to 150 runs per year with distances up to over 100 miles one-way! We receive from the State, through Southern Region EMS Council, Inc. approximately \$48,000 annually which covers part of operations, part of salary and etc. The remainder comes from "run" (ambulance run) revenue. We have had to increase our fees nearly 30% in the past year due to reduced numbers of road accidents (certainly in part due to air bags and seat belts plus improved roads). Medicaid/Medicare does not pay our full charge rate due to their set fee system which literally "rips our ambulance system off" thus another loss of funding.

We understand that the FY 03 budget proposes to reduce EMS funding by 25%. This is simply not acceptable! We can not charge Medicaid/Medicare more since they won't pay it. We have already raised our rates 30% in the past year and we are almost entirely a volunteer service! We earnestly request that "cuts" if needed be made in smaller increments and in places that are not critical to care of the injured and sick that we provide at the absolute minimum cost. There is no alternative to our volunteer service and the cuts proposed will threaten the very existence of our service.

Please do not cut EMS funding!

Sincerely,

Kenneth Roberson, Vice Chairman
Copper River EMS

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in regards to the proposed funding cuts to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse programs. These cuts would have a significant impact on Seward and other small communities throughout the state.

Without local prevention and treatment services, our clients and community could experience the following situations:

- 1) escalating behavior that could possibly cause harm to themselves and others through assault
- 2) there would be increased homeless situations without continued case management
- 3) there would be an increase in DWI and related accidents
- 4) increased use of API in rural areas
- 5) local law enforcement agencies will be doing a "bandaid effect" on problems by simply putting people into protective custody

Please consider how these cuts will impact our community and the residents of the state of Alaska.

Thank you.

Sandy Turley
PO Box 1669
Seward, AK. 99664

From: Linda Fouts
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2002 3:24 AM
To: Sandra Turley
Subject: To Marianna – Seward LIO

Please consider the impact of reducing services to people in local communities who need substance abuse and mental health treatment. It is far wiser to fund these programs than to have a dramatic increase in spending for corrections and law enforcement. Why put a strain on these expensive systems when prevention and treatment issues can keep people working in the community and out of institutions.

Linda Fouts

Written testimony for FY 03 budget by:

**Denny Kay Weathers
Third Judicial District
c/o P.O. Box 1791
Cordova, Alaska
Zip Exempt**

Mr. Chairman;

I am glad to see the Legislature attempting to balance the budget and at the same time trying to cut the costs.

Alaska is a Republican Form of government. One in which the powers of the sovereignty are vested in the people and are exercised by the people, either directly, or through representatives chosen by the people, to whom the powers are specially delegated. In re Duncan, 139 U.S. 449, 11 S. Ct. 573, 35 L.Ed. 219.

Remember the chain of command, God created man, Man created the constitution, the constitution created government and then the government created the public servants, such as the agencies. The people are to be in control.

Government is NOT suppose to take over where the private sector is available and many of the functions within government are not mandated government functions. Many agencies have usurped the powers that rightfully belongs to the people, and this is wrong.

I will now address the agencies one by one;

***Administration... still could have more cuts. As I've said in the past, Public radio for one is not a necessity and it competes directly with the private sector.**

***Commerce and Economic development... should not be funding things that are handled in the private sector, such as Tourism, Fishing, logging, trapping, mining ect. This all belongs in the private sector, not government.**

***Courts... until these court systems start operating according to and under the Constitution of the united states of America and the principles of the Declaration of Independence their funds should be cut. Remember in 1789 Thomas Jefferson warned that the judiciary if given too much power might ruin our REPUBLIC, and destroy our RIGHTS!**

***Education/Early development... totally over paid and a blatant misuse of funds, Cut to the core. If you plan to fund education, fund each child at the same rate no matter what their background or where they live within the State. Remember what Thomas Jefferson said "The course of history shows that as a government grows, liberty decreases."**

***Environmental Conservation... not only should this department not be funded it should be disbanded for it's past unethical actions. One the Commissioners of DEC told us in writing "that there are statutes, regulations and then we have our policies." DEC let us know that if we did not bow down to their unwritten policies, we would not get a DEC approval.**

***Fish and Game... has gotten to big, needs to be reduced. ADF&G has to many unnecessary job duplications, such as shellfish biologist in PWS and Homer both handle the same fisheries, and most of those fisheries are closed. Any funding for EVOS should be stopped as it is not a government entity or program.**

***Office of the Governor... I think there could be more cuts made there.**

***Health and Social Services... cut, cut, and cut some more. This department is way out of hand. "Remember that any government which gets so big that it can give you everything you want will also be so big that it can take everything you've got!" by William Miller.**

***Department of Labor... needs to be cut more.**

***Department of Law... unfortunately some of these are unable to be cut, but there are still a few that can be trimmed a little more.**

***Public Safety... I would like to see this department cut. This department is no longer a public servant, it is a monster out of control. This is not supposed to be a police state, we are to have peace officers. Note, "Unnecessary laws are not good laws, but traps for money." by Thomas Hobbes, 1651.**

***Revenue... they have areas that also need cutting.**

***Transportation and Public Facilities... I'd like to see more cuts and anything that can be put into the private sector put there.**

***AK Housing/Finance Corp... I do not believe that the government should be in the housing business.**

***University of Alaska... Doesn't the the University have lands and resources to help fund their costs? I think there could be a lot of cuts here to save the State money.**

There are people, who profit from corrupt and oppressive governments, they are the employees and beneficiaries of such governments, and they will defend that corrupt system even if it is self destructing.

This budget process is one way the legislature can bring the unruly, oversized government back under control. Good luck.

*Dwight
Went
April 17, 2002*

IMPACT STATEMENT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Developed by the Emergency Medical Services Regional Directors and Coordinators on April 16, 2002 in response to proposed budget cuts to the DHSS / Community Health and EMS, Grants to Regions line item in SB 289.

- Six of the seven EMS Regions statewide will lay off one to two critical staff positions in programs already suffering from chronic understaffing.
The loss of these key positions will lead to the following:
 - Reduction in the ability to generate revenue and provide critical resources
 - Drastic reduction of support to EMS services in remote and rural areas
 - Inability to provide necessary training to maintain service levels
 - Loss of the ability to participate in essential programs, e.g. Code Blue
 - Loss of programs, e.g. injury prevention, public information and education
- Elimination or reduction of service levels in the rural ambulance and First Responder services in all seven EMS Regions.
- The mini-grants to volunteer services program will be eliminated in Interior Region and Southeast Regions. Southern Region will be required to drastically cut or eliminate its mini-grant program. The other four EMS Regions have eliminated their mini-grant programs in previous fiscal years as a result of flat funding. Mini-grants are used by volunteer ambulance and first responder services to pay for their vehicle insurance, gasoline, supplies, equipment and core training needs.
- EMT exam and coordination of state testing will be effected in all seven EMS Regions
- EMS Training in outlying communities in all seven EMS Regions will decrease or be completely eliminated.
- Remote and rural areas statewide will see the most drastic impacts of these budget cuts.
- This applies also to the DHSS -CHEMS General Fund Budget. The proposed cut to this office negatively impacts the EMS system statewide. The EMS system has been documented to be a System in Crisis and this will set the program back at least a decade. It is imperative that this budget be restored at least to the FY 02 level.

Patricia Seybert
Dillingham

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

BEYOND SHELTER
3710 E. 20TH AVE., SUITE 1
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508-3418
907-276-3046 • Fax 276-2472

April 17, 2002

Senate Finance Committee

Thank you for allowing me to provide input into the proposed budget cuts to the Department of Health and Social Services. I think this process is imperative so that you have a broad perspective on how the budget cuts could impact our communities and the individuals that live in our communities.

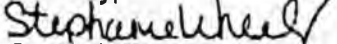
Although I am truly concerned about your overall budget cuts; I will focus on the DHSS budget cuts that would have severe impact on my program. I am the program director for the Catholic Social Services-Beyond Shelter Program. Since 1993, the Beyond Shelter program has assisted more than 700 households transition from homelessness to permanent independent living. We provide case management, life skills and other supportive services to assist these individuals to move toward self-sufficiency. Many of our referrals are received from other social service providers such as the Division of Public Assistance, the local shelters, medical facilities, and mental health agencies. We also work closely with landlords and provide household and money management skills to help individuals maintain housing. With the current tight rental market, housing stability has become a major issue for lower income families. This program minimizes the "musical chair" effect of housing for many of these households, thus creating more of a stable environment for families and especially the children.

For the last six years, our program was funded through HUD funds, which will end on March 31, 2002. We have been exploring other opportunities so that we may continue to provide services to homeless individuals and families. We were recently informed that the Beyond Shelter program was rated number one for the Human Service Matching Grant (Municipality of Anchorage) for FY 03 and FY 04. If these funds are eliminated, we would have to reduce our level of services to the community. This means that over 80 homeless households would not receive services necessary to move them from homelessness to permanent independent living. Our services are especially important as we enter into the five-year time limit for families who are on ATAP. We currently are working with a mother of five (three of her children have special needs) whose five year benefits have ended and her case recently closed. Although job seeking, she is not sure how to pay April's rent. I am certain that we will be serving more families like this one during the upcoming fiscal year.

Additionally, budget cuts to the Division of Public Assistance may adversely impact our program as well. Family Pathfinders, a mentoring project that recruits and trains mentors from the local churches to work one on one with ATAP families to assist them with developing work related goals and move them toward working and self-sufficiency, may also be eliminated. This would be a loss for the collaborative effort of Division of Public Assistance, Catholic Social Services Lutheran Social Services of Alaska, local area churches and the 17 participants currently involved in the project.

Again, thank you for allowing me to share my input. I hope that you would reconsider your options and avoid making drastic cuts to the DHSS budget that would significantly impact the communities in Alaska and the people who live in them.

Sincerely,


Stephanie Wheeler
Program Director



A United Way Agency

SCATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

225 Cordova St., Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 277-2554 • Fax (907) 272-7370

Fax

To: Senate Finance Committee From: Sherry Hill

Fax: 465-2187 Pages: 2

Phone: _____ Date: 4/17/02

Re: Op. Budget testimony CC: _____

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please recycle

Here is my written testimony
on the budget for the Senate
Finance Committee - I am unable
to attend the hearing tonight.

Thank you!
Sherry Hill

Adoption
Beyond Shelter
Brother Francis Shelter/Kodiak
Special Needs Services
Immigration & Refugee Services



Clare House
McAuley Manor
St. Francis House
Charlie Elder House
Pregnancy Support Services
Brother Francis Shelter/Anchorage

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

April 17, 2002

225 CORDOVA STREET • ANCHORAGE, AK 99501

907-277-2554 • FAX 272-7370

email: catholicsocialservices@css-ak.org

website: cssalaska.org

Senate Finance Committee
State Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Human Services Matching Grant, DHSS operating budget

Dear Senators:

I have some concerns to address on the recommended operating budget for the Department of Health and Social Services. I am unable to attend the budget hearing, so this is my written testimony.

Anchorage and Fairbanks are facing a potential 25 percent cut of the Human Services Matching Grant from the DHSS budget for next fiscal year.

Every year the state (through DHSS) funds a Human Services Matching Grant to Anchorage and Fairbanks, which is matched by those cities and distributed to nonprofits. This year, the DHSS request was for \$1.7 million – \$1.3 to the Municipality of Anchorage and \$400,000 to Fairbanks Northstar Borough. In the House proposed DHSS budget, the cut to the grant was 10 percent. However, the House also gave DHSS an Unallocated Reduction of \$7.2 million, which DHSS in turn cut a handful of programs, including the Human Services Matching Grant.

We realize that even if the Senate restores more of the funding for this grant, the budget will need to be reconciled between the two legislative bodies.

The 25 percent cut, although better than a 100 percent cut, will impact Anchorage and Fairbanks nonprofits. Any cut will impact agencies who help those most vulnerable in our communities – homeless women and children; women experiencing domestic violence; families; children; the elderly; the hungry; the poor; those needing in-home respite care and health services. If you wonder about the statewide benefit, many of these organizations help people from outside of our respective areas, as they travel to us, write or call for assistance.

If there is a 25 percent loss of this grant, Catholic Social Services will probably not lose funding. However, health and human service providers in Anchorage rely on each other's services to deliver a continuum of care with services to people in need; from emergency shelter, to health services, to transitional housing, and more. If any of these services are cut, it hinders the remainder of the service providers from helping those who are most vulnerable in our community.

Should the grant be completely eliminated, Catholic Social Services would face a significant shortfall to our Beyond Shelter, St. Francis House, and Clare House programs. These programs help families in their struggles with homelessness – either helping them after they have been homeless (Beyond Shelter), to avoid homelessness (St. Francis House) or while they are homeless – and in crisis (Clare House).



A United Way Agency

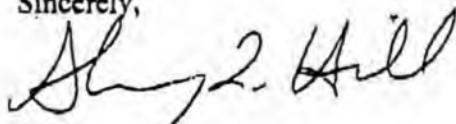
Adoption • Beyond Shelter • Brother Francis Shelter /Anchorage • Brother Francis Shelter /Kodiak
Clare House • Elder House • Immigration & Refugee Services • McAuley Manor • Pregnancy
Support Services • Special Needs Respite • St. Francis House

Catholic Social Services/Page 2

I am asking you to either restore this grant in full, or at the least, maintain the current amount recommended by the HESS Finance Subcommittee. Any assistance you can provide to make sure this important grant program is not cut substantially or eliminated would be greatly appreciated by Anchorage and Fairbanks nonprofits, but most importantly, by the clients we serve.

On the larger picture, please reconsider the cuts which impact those most vulnerable in our communities: the poor, the disabled, the mentally ill, those suffering from alcohol and drug addictions, the children stuck in foster care and waiting for a permanent home. Catholic Social Services serves many of these people directly and indirectly and we must advocate on their behalf. Please remember this budget impacts people – the most vulnerable in our Alaskan communities – they are not just a line item on the budget page.

Sincerely,



Sherry L. Hill, M.Sc.
Director of Community Relations

 FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	FROM:
CO-CHAIR: Senator Dave Donley, CO-CHAIR: Senator Pete Kelly, VICE-CHAIR: Senator Jerry Ward, Senator Loren Leman, Senator Lyda Green, Senator Gary Wilken, Senator Alan Austerman, Senator Lyman Hoffman Senator Donny Olson	Anna K. Sappah
COMPANY:	DATE:
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE	4/17/02
FAX NUMBER:	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:
(907) 465-2187	1
PHONE NUMBER:	SENDER'S PHONE NUMBER:
	907-277-8796
RE	SENDER'S FAX NUMBER:
SUBSTANCE ABUSE BUDGET	907-258-7198

NOTES/COMMENTS:

I am writing to ask that the finance committee please not cut 20% from the budget for substance abuse treatment. I am a member of the Meeting the Challenge Program. Our group was in Juneau at the end of March to help you, the legislature, put a face to the issue of substance abuse and treatment.

I am a recovering heroin addict. I was in active addiction for over 22 years. I am a 2nd generation addict. In 1995 I became ready to change my life. I was able to participate in a drug treatment program. I completed that program and aftercare. I learned basic life skills. I was given the information I needed to reach out to additional resources to help me with mental & physical health issues. I was given the tools to help me in my recovery. Most importantly, I was given the opportunity to STOP using long enough to learn how to stay clean. I celebrated 7 years clean on April 2, 2002.

I am now a productive member of society. I am employed full time. I am also self-employed in the summer as a fishing guide on the Kenai. I am able to be a parent to my children. I am active in community service and in cultural events. I am no longer a drain to State resources in terms of AFDC, food stamps, food banks, Medicaid, unpaid bills, domestic violence, unemployment, on and on ad nauseam.

Substance abuse treatment DOES WORK. Please help to make it available when people reach out for help. It costs less to send 4 people to treatment than it does to house one inmate for 1 year. There are over 300 people per day on waiting list trying to get into treatment. Many of these will get into a jail bed while they wait for treatment. Worse yet, many will die while they wait because they cannot face another day of the hellish life of an addict.

Respectfully
Anna Sappah



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SENATE FINANCE
Committee name

Committee on HB 403 Operating Budget, dated March 27, 2002
Bill # / subject

I am very concerned about the possible closure of the Ninilchik DOT.

These men do a fantastic job of keeping our highways safe for our community, especially the ones of us who depend on using the roads to travel to our work every day. My husband commutes 84 miles to Kenai every weekday, my son and daughter-in-law commute to Soldotna, 72 miles a day. I only have to drive five miles but my grandson travels 14 miles a day to school. To close our DOT and add our roads to Homer and Soldotna DOT is a very, very bad and irresponsible idea. They have trouble maintaining their own road miles as all of us who have to travel in both areas already know. To add ours to their area is just asking for many more accidents and deaths both in the winter and summer. WHY on earth do you want to cut so many essential services? My husband and I earn over \$70,000 a year and we are willing to pay our fair share of taxes. Bring back the income tax...PLEASE.

I urge you to reconsider and not close the Ninilchik DOT.

Signed:

Jackie Bear
Testifier

Jackie Bear

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 39283 Ninilchik, Alaska 99639

Address

907-567-3344

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 403 Operating Budget, dated March 27, 2002
bill # / subject

Do not close our DOT! Our roads
would never get plowed...

Pass an income tax!! I'll
gladly pay my share.

P.S. - I'm going to be really
unhappy if they close Johnson
Lake campground.

Signed: Patsy Bushnell
Testifier

Representing (optional)
Box 126 Nenilchik, Ak. 99639
Address
567-3322
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 403 Operating Budget, dated 04-01-2002
Bill # / subject

Subject: Proposed Elimination Of The Ninilchik D.O.T. Station

How long will it take for a Homer or Soldotna based grader to plow Oil Well Road which is 40 miles from either direction?

Will our State maintained side roads, traveled by school buses, be cleared prior to our children being picked up?

Will the middle of the Sterling Highway, from Anchorage Point to Kaslof, be left unplowed, until Homer and Soldotna areas have been plowed first, present a danger to commuters traveling North and South?

Will plow trucks from Homer and Soldotna try to arrive in Ninilchik at the same time to facilitate traffic flow?

Will the business communities in Homer and Soldotna/Kenai discriminate against residents, looking for work in these areas, in the Clam Gulch, Ninilchik, and Happy Valley areas because of potential travel delays to work due to unplowed roads?

Are you closing the Ninilchik D.O.T. Station because we are a political "weak link" unlike Nikiski?

Signed: Elmer Schaezle / [Signature]
Testifier

Representing (optional)

65055 Chamberlain, P.O. Box 78, Ninilchik Alaska 99639
Address

907-567-3327
Phone number

From: Ninilchik Community Ambulance Association Board of Directors.
Subject: HB 403 Operating Budget

We have a serious concern about the possible closing of the Ninilchik Dept. of Transportation Facility.

First is the fact that we responded to 17 motor vehicle accidents last year between mile 119 & 144 of the Sterling Highway. This represents 19.3% of our runs. We feel this number will only increase if our D.O.T is closed. This section of highway will be the last area cleared of snow if either Homer or Soldotna D.O.T is assigned the task.

Second: Because the Caribou Hills is a major snow machine recreational area. Our only access to the hills for our ambulance service is Oil Well road. Ninilchik D.O.T keeps this road clear. We responded to eight snow machine related accidents last year. This represents 10% of our runs. We can only think that Oil Well road will be near the bottom of the list for road maintenance if either Homer or Soldotna is assigned the task.

As these two sections of highway will be the farthest from Homer or Soldotna D.O.T facility it is our opinion that less time will be spent keeping the roads maintained in the summer & cleared of snow in the winter.

As you can see we count on the Ninilchik D.O.T to keep these roads maintained & cleared of snow. As 29.3% of last year's runs counted on these roads being accessible we are deeply concerned that our response time to accident victims will increase.

We would like you to know we feel strongly about keeping the Ninilchik D.O.T open.

We feel that the public safety would be better served if the Ninilchik D.O.T were fully funded.

We hope you will keep our concerns in mind when funding HB 403.
Thanks for your time. NCAA.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
Committee name

Committee on HB 403 Operating Budget, dated 4/8/02
bill # / subject

I have worked in Soldotna for the past 6 1/2 years, it has been necessary to work up there to support my family. I drive approximately 75 miles each day. If the Ninilchik Station is shut down, how am I supposed to continue working full-time? I will not jeopardize my life driving to work on unsafe roads. I will not jeopardize my son's life letting him ride buses on unsafe roads. (next)
1 of 2

Signed: TAMMY L. BEAR Jay LB
Testifier

Representing (optional)
10450 Sterling Hwy, Ninilchik, AK 99639
Address
907-567-7340
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 403 Operating Budget, dated _____
bill # / subject

The roads will be unsafe. Right now, where the Soldotna station takes over from Ninilchik, I consider myself lucky if the roads are cleared of snow or sanded. Our station must remain open. Our livelihood, our safety depend on it.

2 of 2

Signed: TAMMY L. BEAR
Testifier

Representing (optional)

Address

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
Committee name

Committee on HB 403 Operating Budget, dated 4/8/02
bill # / subject

The Ninilchik Dist. has been short on employees and equipment for the past two years. It will not be possible to provide the Ninilchik area satisfactory maintenance from Homer and Soldotna. Please Do Not Support HB 403.

Signed: Michael J. Schuster
Testifier

Representing (optional)
64460 Oilwell Rd., Ninilchik, Alaska 99639
Address
(907) 567-1050
Phone number

"Hi. I'd like a large order of salmonella and a side of E. coli" That is practically what you'd be ordering if there were no health inspectors. The state plans to do a budget cut and in this budget cut they want to lay off all the health inspectors. These health inspectors are the people that make sure the food you are buying in the store is packaged safely. They are making sure the restaurants you dine in meet the health expectations. They make sure that the meals your child is receiving at school were prepared correctly and even more than that.

Without these health inspectors who would make sure that what you are eating is safe? Who would enforce the standards that keep your food safe?

Think about it. Having no health inspectors is like having no police. There would be no one to enforce the rules and regulations and no one to take care of those that don't meet expectations. Think about it. Would you really want to live in a town with no police? No. You wouldn't. And neither would you want to live in a town with no health inspectors.

Health inspectors make sure that food borne illnesses like; Staphylococcus, C. perfringens, Salmonella, C. botulinum, B. cereus, Campylobacter, E.coli and other potentially serious illnesses don't get into your food.

Here is the question. Will we allow the state to take our health safety away from us? Our answer is no. We can't decide for you but we hope you say no too.

Sincerely,

Halfrek and Anyanka VD
154 Riverview
Soldotna AK, 99669

262-6650

Note: a 13-year-old girl, the grand daughter of a state health officer and her friend wrote this. The idea and content was theirs. The only assistance given was to provide information as to what illnesses one could get from consuming contaminated food.


Jerry Farrington



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 403, dated _____
bill # / subject

SEE 1 PAGE ATTACHED

Signed: TERRY FARRINGTON; HALFREY & ANYANKA VD
Testifier

SELF
Representing (optional)

154 RIVERVIEW SOLDOTNA, AK 99669
Address

262-6650
Phone number



Talkeetna Historical Society Museum

P.O. Box 76
Talkeetna, AK 99676

April 15, 2002

907-733-2487
Fax 907-733-2484

State of Alaska
Senate
Senator Dave Donley
Mail Stop 3100
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Donley,

The Talkeetna Historical Society respectfully requests reinstatement of the funding for the State's Retail Food and Sanitation Program. I understand funds from this program will not be available in the FY 03 Operating Budget.

Talkeetna is unable to provide the essential environmental health services that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) currently provides. Loss of these services will impact the Moose Dropping Festival, which is an opportunity for food vendors to sell their products. Currently we work with DEC to ensure that food vendors meet the State requirements for our July festival that attracts thousands of visitors annually.

The Society's Moose Dropping Festival is the chief fundraiser for restoration of historic properties in the Historic District, and operating costs of the Museum. Since we do not charge for admittance or parking to the festival, an important source of income is booth rental space. Insurance cost for the festival has risen steadily, and we understand that it will rise considerably more if we allow food vendors who have not passed DEC inspection. We cannot absorb this cost.

Please re-think the impact removing these funds will have on the health and safety of communities outside of Anchorage.

Sincerely,

Karon L. Jahm
President,
Talkeetna Historical Society

CC: Janice Adair, Director, Division Environmental Health

April 18, 2002

To: Senate Finance Subcommittee Members:

Your proposed cuts to social service programs are going to have an extremely detrimental impact on future state budgets. Reducing funding to Medicaid, Denali Kid Care, Foster Parent Programs, Alcohol & Tobacco Use Cessation/Prevention Programs, Power Cost Equalization, Mental Health Programs, AVTEC, General Assistance, Education, Suicide Prevention, Education, Public Health Nurses, Adoption Programs, Family Preservation Programs, Head Start, TANF, and other vital programs will have result in even more calls to Emergency Medical Service providers.

As Health & Safety Educator for Tanana Chiefs Conference, I daily see the combined positive effects of the programs you propose to cut. During my trips to communities throughout the Upper Tanana, I often receive requests for additional social services, especially mental health services. I relay these messages to the Tok Area Counseling Center, but they already have too large a caseload.

Additional funding cuts to social service programs is going to result in even fewer people receiving services, resulting in increases in domestic violence, elder abuse, child abuse, sexual assault, violent crimes, alcoholism, drug abuse, and suicide. This is entirely contrary to the goals of Governor Knowles and to the promises you made to your constituents when you ran for State Senate.

Many people who dedicate themselves to social service work countless hours of overtime without asking for, or expecting, compensation. Your proposed cuts are going further overburden these people, cause burnout, and lead to an apathetic work force that can no longer provide the individualized services that their at risk clients require in order to remove themselves from dependency upon social services. The idiocy of your proposed budget cuts is beyond words.

During my volunteer work at the Upper Tanana Aging Program I often hear elders discussing whether to buy necessary medication or to heat their homes. If Power Cost Equalization funding is reduced, they will be forced to discuss whether to buy food, heating oil, or medication. For some elders, the meal they receive from the Upper Tanana Aging Program is the only meal they have that day.

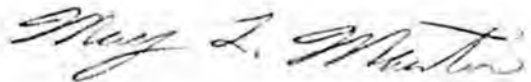
As a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician for Tok Area Emergency Medical Service, I am one of the 28 volunteer medical personnel who cover an area the size of the State of Virginia. One-third of our members are Emergency Medical Technician-III's, the highest training level without moving to attend a paramedic program. Our service has been extremely proactive in training it's members. The result is a high level of care not possible in many rural areas.

As medical training requires re-certification every two years, the loss of training funds will result in advanced care no longer being provided. Being the first medical service on the Alaskan side of the ALCAN, in the summer many of our patients are elderly and require advanced medical procedures. Without continued medical training and equipment funds Alaska will become prohibitive to all visitors except the most hardy. The hardy are often the young with the smallest disposable income. Thus a cut social services will also have a detrimental effect on tourism.

Petroleum, forestry, and commercial fishing operations will also have a smaller pool of Emergency Medical Technician to hire from to provide medical services. This will result in higher death rates in the oil, logging, and fishing industries. These deaths will be a direct result of your actions.

Please do not cut funding to the people who daily are working towards making Alaska a healthier and safer place to raise the next generation of Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Martin
PO Box 434
Tok, AK 99780-0434

April 24, 2002

Senator Donley
Senate Finance Committee

Dear Senator:

This letter is in response to the proposed cut to the EMS and BRU grants. This cut is a substantial cut to programs already in crisis.

I am appalled at the apparent political gaming that is going on. I am constantly reminded of "the fiscal gap" by the media and the Legislature. I understand that the Legislature needs to find ways to cut spending. What I see happening is the Legislature making cuts to programs like EMS, education and other programs that are a necessity for the public to have access to.

Do you think that your proposed cuts to these areas will sway the public on the State income tax proposal or State sales tax proposal. Do you think we will just roll over and tell you-go ahead and tax us even more, we need these services, we will pay even more?

This is what I see coming from our elected officials. Why don't you listen to your constituents? There are excesses in our government spending. Look closer to the problem for the solutions. Look at the areas of "fluff", not the public safety or education areas to cut.

Please do not make these cuts. It would be devastating. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,



Jodi K. Zufelt
4121 Edinburgh Drive
Anchorage, AK 99502



LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

PO Box 1189

Room 221, Jarvis Office Center

Delta Jct., AK 99737

Phone: 895-4236 Fax: 895-5017

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 18, 2002
TO: Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Elizabeth A. Sarver *EAS*
Legislative Information Officer

SUBJECT: Testimony for Senate Finance Committee Hearing

Please accept the enclosed original(s) of written testimony for the Senate Finance Committee hearing that was scheduled for 04/18/02.

Copies of this testimony were transmitted by fax on 04/18/02.

Thank you.

Enclosures: 5



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
committee on The Budget, dated 4-18-02
bill/subject committee name

Please take a serious look at the proposed budget cuts. Cutting services like Parks, road maintenance and troopers are ridiculous. These things are vital to the overall "health" of our state.

Find the money for the budget elsewhere - taxes (within reason, of course), permanent fund, etc. We need the services more than we need the over-generous dividend (cap would help) or lack of taxes. Our state has a welfare mentality that needs to stop.

Signed: Maurice Miller
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
HC 60 Box 4141 Delta, AK 99737
Address
895-6208
Phone No.

10191 P. 02



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 committee on Education Funding, dated 4-17-02
 bill/subject committee name

I urge you to increase funding for our schools. Anything less than \$190 per student (\$32.7 million) increase in state funding in FY 03 does not measure up.

Signed:

Whit Aillaud

Testifier

self

Representing (Optional)

Box 12415 Delta AK 99737

Address

895-4286

Phone No.

①

TOTAL P. 02



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
committee on Education Funding dated 4/17/02
committee name

bill/subject
Education has had to limp around with inadequate funding for more than a decade when you mandated unfunded standards. I had to comfort little special needs students who were in tears having to take the tests you mandated before having reasonable intervention and accommodation plans in place. Our constitution has mandated that you establish and maintain a school system. Education funding must be the #1 priority for Alaska's children and our future. Anything less than \$190 per student INCREASE IN STATE FUNDING IN FY03 does not measure up! Our students need and deserve updated materials, textbooks, resources and technology. They deserve learning environments that are conducive to learning, not overcrowded classrooms. They deserve teachers who are trained to teach — not just any warm body. They deserve quality support professionals who do make a difference! Our schools need to be SAFE. These things

Signed: JACKIE L. Nelson Jackie Nelson

Testifier
President, Delta-Greely Education Support Personnel Assoc.
Representing (Optional)
Special Education Aide, Mother of 3

Address
HC 60 Bx 4180, Delta Jct., AK 99737
Phone No. 895-4817
L.jackie@wildak.net >

eed to be funded (2) by you
 o make sure that we, "Leave no
 child Behind", the resources need to
 be in the schools to allow our districts
 administrators, teachers and education
 support professionals to do what they
 do best... teach our children! Your
 job should be clear — increase
 educational funding by NO LESS THAN
 \$190 per STUDENT in FY03. Anything
 less is child neglect! The future
 of our children and our state
 depends on you "stepping up to
 the plate." with adequate funding
 for education.

Signed:

JACKIE L. Nelson

Jackie Nelson
 Delta-Greely Education Support
 Personnel Assoc.

Testifier

President

Representing (Optional)

Special Education Aide, Mother of 3

Address

HC 60 BX 4180, Delta Jct., AK

Phone No.

99737 895-4217



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 committee on Budget, dated April 18, 2002.
bill/subject committee name

If state budget cuts could specifically be geared for the fat at the top, it would be fine. But the cuts hit the working men + women out clearing the roads, marketing timber sales, policing our highways + cities etc. Our state doesn't have a budget problem, we just have a group of lawmakers that can't make a decision. Our state's citizens have gotten too used to free money from the state, and free services. Use of the perm fund is quite reasonable as is a state income tax. We should be getting money from all the outsiders that take our state dollars and give nothing back. Don't continue cutting the budget at the cost of leaving our highways + cities unsafe. and our resources undeveloped. Thank you

Signed:

Scott R Miller
Testifier

Misty Mountain Farm
Representing (Optional)

HC 60 Box 4140, Delta AK 99821
Address

907-895-6208
Phone No.

April 23, 2002,

Senator Dave Donley
Finance Committee co-Chairman
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Senator Donley,

As a 23-year resident of the Great State of Alaska, I have had many memorable outdoor experiences in the Alaska State Parks. I cannot imagine this state without the access to the country that these parks provide. The ability to fish the Kenai Peninsula's rivers and lakes, ski through the quiet of winter, and to sit quietly watching wildlife is so vital to an Alaskan. It all happens almost exclusively in the state parks of this state.

We need our State Park System intact to live the life that brought so many of us here and to sustain the future of our state through tourism. The business of tourism is thriving in Alaska- and it is a renewable resource that we must preserve.

Please support our parks by eliminating or severely limiting cuts to the lifeblood of Alaska-Our State Park budget.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Rykaczewski
POB 3853
Homer, Alaska 99603
r-ski@xyz.net

April 22, 2002

Dave Donley, Co-chair
Senate Finance Committee
Fax: 907-465-6595

Dear Senator Donley:

I am writing to express my concern for the future of the Alaska State Parks, and urge you to support the transfer of park user fees to "Receipt Supported Services" and restore the proposed budget cut.

Closure of the parks would be a disaster for Alaskans and visitors alike. Without maintenance, garbage collection or rest rooms, these treasures will be vandalized, become filthy and present a health hazard as well. Closing the parks does not protect the investment the state has in these parks, and restoring them later will be far more costly.

Here in Sitka, Castle Hill is visited by thousands of tourists from all over the world, coming here on the cruise ships. Rich in history, it is one of our featured attractions. Imagine how disgusting it will be for visitors to find it unkempt and dirty. It will be an embarrassment for Sitka and Alaska.

Local residents use Halibut Point Recreation Area and Old Sitka extensively. Their shoreline locations, forest, and trails are outstanding. The Halibut Point Rec. area is not only a favorite spot for group gatherings and picnics, but because of the unique combination of rocky shore, island, beach, stream and rainforest, is also used by students of Natural History and Biology. An isolated community, Sitka has only 14 miles of road system; there are no other comparable lands available to the public. I don't know where we will go if we can't use these parks.

Please vote to support the State Parks.

Sincerely,



Orval S. Weckel III
P.O. Box 6311
Sitka, AK 99835
907-747-4522



State Of Alaska
Legislative Affairs Agency
Kenai LIO
145 Main St Lp, Ste 217
Kenai, AK 99611
907-283-2030

Date: 4/18/02

Please accept the enclosed original(s) of written testimony
for the SEIN teleconference hearing that
was scheduled on 4/17/02.

A copy of this testimony was transmitted to your committee
via fax on 4/17/02.

Thank You,

Kenai LIO

3/17/02

TO: Senate Finance Committee

Re: Budget hearings – SB 289

From: James E. Fisher, 171 Farnsworth Blvd., Solodtna, AK 99669
Fax: 262-9641 phone: 262-9601

Will you be able look the Alaska public in the eye to explain how you have failed to institute reasonable financial support for their essential state services?

Since the Senate has apparently approximated the General Fund budget proposed by the House, even more moderate Senate changes would result in painful slashes for essential education, public health and safety. I ask will those cuts:

1. In any way enhance the overall lives of all Alaskan residents, even those who only must worry about the safety of such a simple matter as eating in a restaurant?
2. How can the estimated reductions of 19-23, or more, fewer State Troopers adequately respond to death, disaster and critical search and rescue for any one, or all, of us?
3. How can our children receive even the level of education now available, under our presently stressed financial school systems?

Answering the apparent factual situation of these questions, challenges the Senate to explain the multiple adverse impacts that will affect your constituents and our neighbors.

Won't failure to avoid the adverse impacts outlined above, look like a failure of nerve of the Senate?

(SenFin31702.tele-hearing)

*Confirmation
of testimony - 4/17/02
J.E.F.*



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 403 / SB 289 Operating Budget, dated April 17, 2002
bill # / subject

I support HB 403 and SB 289. Please don't forget \$190 dollars per student (32.7 million) increase state funding in FY 03. This funding is important if you want productive children. I urge you to increase funding for schools. Alaska's Children / Alaska's Future.

Signed: Ms. Anita J. Byers
Testifier

Representing (optional)
P.O. Box 865, Soldotna, Alaska 99669
Address

907/2626188
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 403 / SB 289 Operating Budget, dated April 17, 2002
bill # / subject

Please understand that when you cut financial support for child protection, public safety, mental health services, substance abuse treatment and prevention, and medical care, you increase the cost to the State, the community, and our society in the future. Much of what is done in the areas outlined above is prevention work. Child protection services focus much of the resources on preventing child abuse and neglect. Public safety personnel help to prevent crime, domestic violence, child abuse, etc. The list goes on. Please do not be short-sighted. The cuts you make on the backs of the children & poor today, will cost all of us in the future. ~~the~~ Please support these services and put the funds back in the budget.

Signed:

~~Testifier~~ Voter Margit Cox

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 4137 Soldotna, AK 99589
Address

262-6365
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 403 / SB 289 Operating Budget, dated April 17, 2002
bill # / subject general mental health fund

I think that this cut is targeting the most vulnerable population who are not the majority of the voting population - I urge you to consider what an impact this will have on the local community and AK as a whole -

Please consider to put money back into family preservation ^{grant} - Also ^{the} reduction in foster care ^{payments} - ~~the~~ the families that foster our children are a vital part of our resources
Thank-you for your time

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier

Voter
Representing (optional)

Box 1388 Soldotna AK 99669
Address

260-3860
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Senate Finance
committee name

Committee on HB 403 / SB 289 Operating Budget, dated
bill # / subject

April 17, 2002

FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS I HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE GOAL OF BUDGET CUTTING BY THE MAJORITY UNTIL THE HEARD PEOPLE CRY "UNCLE." WELL, I HAVE BEEN CRYING & CRYING UNCLE ABOUT THE CUTS, TAX ME, CAP THE PERM. FUND, REDUCE THE PERM FUND DIVIDEND. - THIS IS SO WRONG. WE CANNOT CUT OUR WAY TO ECONOMIC HEALTH. EDUCATION MUST BE INCREASED. AS A 39 YEAR VOTING RESIDENT I HAVE SEEN THE UPS & DOWN - BUT RECALL WHEN WE WERE A 1st CLASS STATE

Signed:

MARION NELSON
Testifier

SELF
Representing (optional)

PO BOX 1535
Address

907-253-4632
Phone number

WHEN IT CAME TO EDUCATION, WE ARE A
LONG WAY FROM IT NOW. I PERSONALLY
GIVE MY PFD CHECK TO THE TWO ELEM-
ENTARY CLASSROOMS OF MY YOUNGEST
GRANDKIDS FOR BASIC SUPPLIES.

STOP THIS MADNESS.

- FUND ^{RAISE FUNDING} THE SCHOOLS & ^{RAISE FUNDING} EDUCATORS SALARIES
- CHANGE THE FUNDING FORMULA -
- CHANGE THE DESIGNATION OF THE REVENUE. -
(WE ARE NOT AN ANCHORAGE COMPARABLE)
- FUND PARKS
- FUND HWAY MAINTENANCE/FERRIES.
- FUND TROOPERS
- FUND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
- FUND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR OUR
DISABLED.
- FUND TOURISM

Marion Nelson



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 289 / HB 403 Operating Budget, dated April 17, 2002
bill # / subject

Honorable Senators of the Finance Committee:

I ask you to seriously consider not cutting education any further. Education funding has been eroded to the point that that our district is no longer able to offer competitive compensation packages to attract and keep the best and brightest teachers for our kids.

The teachers we have right now, were hired in the days when the Kenai Peninsula School District was able to go down to the lower 48 and pick from the best of the best at every job fair. Those days are gone. Today we are encouraging our most experienced teachers to LEAVE our schools in a sad attempt to make up for the lack of state funding.

Does anyone remember the days when:

- There was an income tax.
- There was no permanent fund dividend.
- Education was a priority.

Today:

- There is no income tax.
- There is a permanent fund dividend
- Education is NOT a priority.

Inflation alone costs our schools \$14.8 million dollars this year alone. Please increase the foundation formula. Our children and our schools deserve to be a priority. Quality schools build strong citizens and strong communities.

Strong public schools prepare children for jobs of the 21st century.
FUND EDUCATION FIRST BEFORE FUNDING ANYTHING ELSE.

Signed: Bill Vedders
Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 1484 Kenai, Alaska 99611
Address

283-3472
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the S FINANCE
committee name
committee on BUDGET, dated 04-18-02
bill/subject

I cannot understand why the Legislature wants to cut the State Parks Budget when these facilities help the second largest economy in the State, tourism. It is not as if it's a budget of billions or even tens of millions of dollars! We are talking of cutting a budget that has been small, too small for all the years I can recall (35+). I enjoy and use these parks all year long and want them to be open and their facilities available to us residents and the visitors that come here and add jobs and work to our State. Please do not vote to cut their funds.

Rick Ernst
Box 13172
Trapper Creek 99683 ph (907) 733-2721



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
Committee name
Committee on BUDGET, dated 4-16-02
Bill/Subject

4-17-2002

Dear Sirs,

I am writing this letter in support of the treatment programs in Alaska. Over the years I have seen many people benefit from these programs. I personally know people who have come into these programs with no hope of living a clean sober life, with the help they have received they are living clean and sober lives; with years of sobriety. Something that they did not think possible and many other people did not think possible. They have become parents and have trained for new jobs and bought homes, but most important they have respect for themselves and other people; they also have serenity and a peace of mind. I would like to see no money cut from these programs. It is very important to many people to keep these programs going.

Signed: Brenda Winders
Testifier

Treatment Facilities
Representing (Optional)

P.O. BOX 20696 Juneau, AK. 99802
Address

907-586-3992
Phone number