

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

2287

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 2001 - 2002



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
committee name
committee on BUDGET, dated 4-18-02
bill/subject

Hello,

My name is Cheryl Brummer, Administrative Assistant for Mat-Su College. I am in support of the budget for FY/03 for the University of Alaska, Anchorage. The college is based upon a multitude of educational avenues which this funding supports. By denying these allocations you will be denying the growth of our state through very vital means. Our state needs to approve the funding request to help educate the people of Alaska. We need to encourage these people to make the state of Alaska their choice to live and work in, instead of allowing them to leave our fine state to spend there money and lives elsewhere.

Thank you

Cheryl Brummer
Administrative Assistant
Mat-Su College
pnclb@matsu.alaska.edu

April 17, 2002

To the Senate Finance Committee:


I apologize for not being able to be present this evening, but I wanted to give you the chance to consider my concerns. As I have worked for the Division of Family and Youth Services since 1999, I am hoping that you can utilize my expertise in considering the impacts of the budget cuts on Alaska's children. I spend every day protecting children and working for their best interests, therefore it is my responsibility to speak for them now. I am specifically referring to the cuts in foster care, subsidized adoption programs and alcohol programs.

Many children are removed from their unsafe homes every year, many of which never return home. Those that do not return home rely on foster homes to adequately care for them and protect them. You must keep in mind that the majority of these children are affected by a lifetime of trauma, dating back to in utero. Therefore, they have special needs and the caregivers need special skills to fulfill those needs. There are many families with wonderful intentions and big hearts that are willing to take in these children, but they need financial assistance in doing so. Even now, the funds for foster homes is understated and I fear the repercussions of cutting those funds even further. As a result, there will be less available homes and substantially less that are willing to adopt. Overall, permanency for children will decrease and children lingering in the system will increase. We have developed laws to address these issues, but those laws cannot be upheld without the necessary resources. In essence, we will all be working against our own goals. Why would we do that?

As for cutting funding for the alcohol programs, the consequences seem clear. If we take away the resources which allow parents to rehabilitate themselves, children will be unable to return home (with less available foster homes.) Alcohol abuse is a substantial problem in Alaska, and our state needs the resources to match the magnitude of the problem. I don't understand how we can decrease the resolution while the problem continues to increase. Alaska is known for its alcohol problems, and we will then be known for ignoring it. The future of our state would be held in the hands of a large population of children diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

There are consequences to every choice we make. Social services has a history of being underfunded, despite the effects on human beings. Those effects are easy to ignore if you are not the foster child needing a home and needing love. Just put yourself in that child's shoes for a moment, and I am certain you would reconsider the options.

Thank you for your time and understanding.


Sara Childress, MSW
722 Sunset Drive, Apt. C
Anchorage, AK 99501



FAIRBANKS LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE
119 N. CUSHMAN ST. SUITE 101
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701

WRITTEN TESTIMONY TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	FROM:
SFIN	Fran/Fbx LIO
COMPANY:	DATE:
	4/19/2002
FAX NUMBER:	
465-2187	
PHONE NUMBER:	FAXED ON:
465-4935	04/19/2002
RE:	TELECONFERENCED ON:
Written Testimony: Budget Hearings	04-18-02

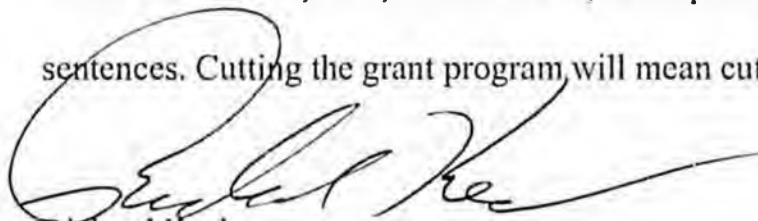
URGENT FOR REVIEW PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Enclosed please find the originals of the written testimony for the budget hearings.

I oppose the proposed 25% cut to the Human Services Community Matching Grant. As a Board member of the North Star Youth Court, which has received funding from this source, I want to say:

1. The NSYC reduces the burden on the juvenile justice system and the court system by prosecuting juvenile misdemeanors. The NSYC allows teenagers to perform a needed service for the community and to learn about the law and the effects of juvenile crime.
2. The NSYC delivers a message to youthful offenders that crime is wrong. Without the NSYC, young offenders either suffer no consequences or else undergo full formal court proceedings with state attorneys, probation officers, a superior court judge, etc.
3. The NSYC, as all the other youth courts in Alaska, depends on grants such as the Human Services Community block grants. Grant money to the NSYC produces a lot of bang for the buck, since much of our work is done by volunteers. But we have to maintain an office, staff, and overhead, to keep track of court cases and follow up on sentences. Cutting the grant program will mean cutting the services NSYC provides.



Richard Keck
1506 3rd Ave.
Fairbanks AK 99701
(907) 451-2954



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE
Committee on TRANSPORTATION Committee Name
Bill / Subject Dated 4/16TUE/2002

FIRE ABOARD ALASKA FERRY COLUMBIA
DAMAGE, REPAIRS, LOSS OF SERVICE.

WHO IS HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT?

SIGNED: Ron KOVALIK
Testifier

Representing
Box 72563, FAI. 99707 / 479-4728
Address / Phone Number

PROFESSIONAL MARINER

Journal of the Maritime Industry

Contents

Issue #63

April/May 2002

Faulty electrical connection, loose bolt suspected in ferry fire

A faulty connection or a loose bolt falling into a switchboard probably caused the fire aboard the ferry *Columbia*, the National Transportation Safety Board has concluded.

The fire on the flagship of the Alaska Marine Highway System on June 6, 2000, (PM #50) broke out in the engine control room's main switchboard. The NTSB said that the probable cause was "arcing, most likely due to a faulty connection or a conductive object."

Mechanical vibrations and thermal cycling can gradually loosen electrical connections, and although crewmembers had used an infrared thermographic inspection program to search for faulty connections, they had never used it to

inspect the switchboard's internal connections. A faulty connection could have developed and remained undetected for a considerable period of time.

A loose bolt may also have caused the arcing that led to the fire. A bolt fused to two washers was found in the switchboard panel compartment.

A report by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory also concluded that the cause of the fire was most likely a faulty connection or the loose bolt. Analysis of the bolt and its location in the switchboard indicate that it was the probable cause of the initial arcing.

The incident occurred as the 418-foot passenger/car ferry

MARITIME CASUALTIES

was underway in the Chatham Strait, about 30 miles southwest of Juneau, en route to Sitka. The ship has the capacity for 971 passengers; at the time of the accident there were 434 passengers and 63 crew aboard. Three passengers were evacuated by Coast Guard helicopter for medical conditions that existed before the fire, while the remaining passengers and a stowaway were transferred to another AMHS ferry, *Taku*, after the two vessels rendezvoused.

According to the NTSB, the transfer of the passengers to *Taku* "was executed in a timely and effective manner and was well coordinated with shoreside management." The NTSB also noted that the passenger and crew muster was well coordinated. There were no injuries or deaths as a result of the accident, but the cost of repair to the ship is estimated to be \$2 million.

Once the passenger transfer was completed, *Taku* towed *Columbia* away from Admiralty Island so that it would not run aground. Shortly thereafter, two tugs, *Banner* and *Ardie*, arrived on the scene. *Banner* towed *Columbia* to the Auke Bay Terminal.

The manufacturer of *Columbia's* switchboard recommended that an inspection be performed, at minimum, every year or during vessel overhauls. The technical manual states that operators should "physically check the tightness of all electrical connections and parts" and "ascertain that no tools or extraneous materials are afloat." But according to the chief engineer's best recollection, the last switchboard inspection had been performed in 1995, but he was not certain whether it was even done then. Maintenance records showed that none of the connections had been cleaned or tightened during the five-year period preceding the accident.

During the winter lay-up, Alaska Ship and Drydock workers had made some modifications to the switchboard. The Coast Guard approved the modifications to the electrical drawings, and inspected and approved the work.

On three occasions, shipyard electricians entered the enclosure to work on the switchboard. On the first occasion, an AMHS port engineer was present to assure that the work was properly done. On the subsequent two occasions, no rewmember or AMHS representative was present to inspect the work while it was in progress or when it was completed.

The NTSB recommended the AMHS conduct annual switchboard inspections, verify outside contractors' work, develop comprehensive pre-fire plans including procedures for engine-room fires, and provide a backup communications system between the bridge and engine room.

John Snyder

Please explain if I understand this correctly:

At least three layers of management or at least two alternate crews had not done their job for five years — and the ferry system is asking for more money?

What discipline was meted out?

Did they dock the pay of the guy who mops out the boiler room?

PROFESSIONAL MARINER

Journal of the Maritime Industry

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PO Box 201496
 Anchorage, AK 99520-1496



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 fund education at 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.

**Senate Finance Committee Testimony
Senior Support for Full Funding of the
Human Services Community Matching Grant Program**

My name is Denise Daniello and I reside at 3844 Ullrbahn Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709. I am the executive director of the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center. I, along with 115 registered Alaskan voters, the majority of whom are Fairbanks area seniors, support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program as demonstrated by this petition. The HSCMG provides critical funding for the Meals on Wheels service administered by the North Star Council on Aging.

Meals on Wheels is a vital community service for elderly people. It not only provides hot nutritious food to feed the body, but a caring delivery person who nourishes the soul. For some elderly people, especially those who live outside the city limits, the Meals on Wheels driver may be the only human contact a person will have all day.

The North Star Council on Aging provides the Meals on Wheels service for 143 homebound seniors of the Fairbanks area targeting at-risk elders who are frail, disabled and/or financially in need. Of those individuals, 94% (134 persons) suffer from crippling arthritis, heart disease, Parkinson's disease or Alzheimer's, 66% (95 persons) are low-income earning less than \$1,000 per month, and 63% (90 persons) are categorized as both medically impaired and financially in need. Meals on Wheels enhances the quality of life by providing healthy food and social contact for these individuals.

Meals on Wheels is cost-effective. The home-delivered meal helps the elderly stay healthy and remain in their own homes, where they want to be, as opposed to being placed in a nursing facility for illnesses related to malnutrition. The daily room and board rate at the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital is \$826, as compared to \$9.48 for a MOW meal.

The demand for Meals on Wheels is increasing. Today, we have 21 elderly people on a waitlist for Meals on Wheels. We need more funding for senior services, not less.

Last year, the North Star Council on Aging prepared 41,500 meals, traveled 36,400 miles delivering meals, and used our \$50,000 HSCMG grant to leverage almost \$300,000 in outside funds. The HSCMG is a sound community investment we support. Thank you.

We, who have signed our names below, receive the Meals on Wheels service from the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, Alaska. We appreciate Meals on Wheels and support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund this service. Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	Stella	Stella	2178 FAGAN	FBKS	AK	99701	Stella Stella
2	Lockhart	Rowe	P.O. BOX 74408	FBKS	AK	99709	Rowe Lockhart
3	ERICKLOCK	MARTHA	1620 WASHINGTON ^{#55}	FBKS	AK	99701	Martha Ericklock
4	DeBride	Tracy	11207 Washington	F. AK	AK	99709	Tracy DeBride
5	BRIMMER	PALE	2451 ALSTON	FBKS	AK	2451	Sally Brimmer
6	m. Raapana	Mary	1770 Bridgeway	FBKS	AK	99709	m. Raapana
7	B. Brooks	Glenn	1512 E. Sengreen	FBKS	AK	99709	Glenn Brooks
8	Stevens	Connie	1005 O'Connor Rd	FBKS		99701	Connie Stevens
9	Wass	Phineas	312 Wedgewood	FBKS	AK	99701	Phineas Wass
10	AKPIK	HENRIEY	101 COLLEGE	FBKS	AK	99701	Henriey Akpik
11	Grant	Bill + Lyla	410 Papill	FBKS	AK	99701	Lyla Grant
12	Bradley	Bill + Joan	428 E. Umba Ave	F. AK	AK	99701	Joan Bradley
13	Shelton	Larry	525 Craig Ave	F. AK	AK	99701	Larry Shelton
14	Reinhardt	Joseph	125 3rd Ave F. AK	F. AK	AK	99701	Joseph Reinhardt
15	Tresselt	Irwin	P.O. Box 7012 FBKS				Irwin Tresselt
16	Seclaman	Louise	306-6th Ave	FBKS		99701	Louise Seclaman
17	BAGLEY	CAROLINE	321 4th	FBKS	AK	99701	C. Bagley
18	Biddle	Charles	330 3rd Ave 161			99701	C. Biddle
19							
20	SENNET	PEARL	333 BRO AVE	FBKS	AK	99701	Pearl Bennett

We, who have signed our names below, receive the Meals on Wheels service from the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, Alaska. We appreciate Meals on Wheels and support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund this service. Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	ABEL	GLEN	405-BARANOF AVE	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701-3200	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	WOLFF	Ernest N	PO. Box 80989	"	"	99708	Ernest N Wolff
3	Ogden	Krista	3845 Potter Rd.	Fairbanks	AK	99709	Krista Ogden
4	Nottingham	Juanita	PO Box 80946	Fairbanks	AK	99708	Juanita Nottingham
5	Nottingham	Charles	PO Box 80946	Fairbanks	AK	99708	Charles E. Nottingham
6	Katherine	Peter	575 Echo Ave Dr.	FBKS	AK	99712	Katherine Peter
7	Dornath	George	1035 Federal	FBKS	AK	99712	George Dornath
8	Turney	Joseph	702 Turney Ct	"	"	"	Joseph Turney
9	Turney	LAVON	702 Turney Ct	"	"	"	Lavon Turney
10	BESSOTTI	LISA	300 Newland Rd # 11	"	"	"	Lisa Bessotti
11	Goodrich	BETTY	3259 Repp Rd	N. POB	"	99705	Betty Goodrich
12	Bivens	MABLE	P.O. Box 55048	N. POB	"	99705	MABLE BIVENS
13	LASK	JUNE	1921 Endyovitz Ave	N. POB	AK	99705	June K. Lask
14	TARPERRING	loyd	P.O. Box 58217	FAIRBANKS	AK	99711	Lloyd Tarperring
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	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	COLI	LARRY	Box 83066	FBKS	AK	99708	Larry Cole
2	TEMMALT	JAMES	700 Fairbanks #139	FBKS	AK	99708	James O. Temmalt
3	Newman	Florence	PO Box 71001	FBKS	AK	99707	Florence Newman
4	Gabayon	Susie	1304-24th Apt C-2	Fbks	AK	99701	Susie Gabayon
5	SMITH	CHARLES	P.O. Box 71366	FBKS	AK	99707	Charles Smith
6	METZ	Alice	PO Box 84475	Fbks	AK	99708	Alice Metz
7	METZ	Duane	P.O. Box 84475	FBKS	AK	99708	Duane Metz
8	Hensley	Ruby B.	2121 Turner St	Fbx	AK	99701	Ruby B. Hensley
9	LAWLESS	Sue	PO Box 71734	FBKS	AK	99707	Sue Lawless
10	BURTNESS	Catherine	1418 Turner St.	FBKS	AK	99701	C. Burtness
11	WISE	George	1523 Gillan W.	Fbx	AK	99701	George Wise
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We, who have signed our names below, receive the Meals on Wheels service from the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, Alaska. We appreciate Meals on Wheels and support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund this service. Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	Kynthia Frank	Barbara	330 3RD GT	FBKS	AK	99709	Cynthia Frank
2			330 3RD GT	FBKS	AK	99709	Sarah Benoit
3	Rosalyn Clark		330 3RD GT	FBKS	AK	99709	
4	Barbara	Frederica	330 3RD GT	FBKS	AK	99709	
5	Norothy	Peters	330 3RD GT	FBS	AK	99701	Norothy Peters
6	Deanne	Flynn	330 3RD GT	FBS	AK	99701	Deanne Flynn
7	Mary	Hollander	Northwood	FBKS	AK	99701	M. Hollander
8	Ted	Kane	Northwood	FBKS	AK	99701	
9	Marionette	Kathleen	Northwood	FBC	AK	99701	Kathleen Marquette
10	Harry	Estewart	Northward BLDG	FBKS	AK	99701	
11	Nancy	Paul	MLH	FBKS	AK	99701	
12	Russ	Laura	MLH	FBKS	AK	99701	Russ & Laura
13	WALLACE	LULU	MLH	FBKS	AK	99701	Lulu Wallace
14	TODD	BETTE	1223 Kennicott	FBKS	AK	99701	Bette M. Todd
15	Tracy	Pitterson					
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We, who have signed our names below, support full funding for the Human Services Community Matching Grant program that helps to fund the Meals on Wheels service provided by the North Star Council on Aging, Senior Center in Fairbanks, AK.

Please do not cut this important grant program from the legislative budget. Thank You.

PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	Turogova	Dorothy	PO Box 60203	FAIRBANKS	AK	99706	Dorothy Turogova
2	GEIGER	SILVIA	3246 ADAMS	FAIRBANKS	AK	99709	Silvia Geiger
3	HUNTER	DIANE	455 ^{3rd} AVENUE APT 323	Fairbank	AK	99701	Diane Hunter
4	HARDY	Wendy	1805 JACK ST.	Fairbanks	AK	99709	Wendy Hardy
5	SAVOYE	JOE	1420 MOORE ST	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701	Joe Savoye
6	Doniello	Denise	3844 Ullrich Rd.	Fairbanks	AK	99709	Denise Doniello
7	Bohner	Judy	PO Box 71538	Fairbanks	AK	99707	Judy Bohner
8	Rogers	Debra	PO Box 60596	Fairbanks	AK	99707	Debra Rogers
9	Walker	Stephen	PO Box 72646	Fairbanks	AK	99707	Stephen Walker
10	Marsden	Josephine	125 3rd Ave	Fairbanks	AK	99701	Josephine Marsden
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PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	Randell	Hazel	307 Wedge way	DR	AK	99701	1606
2	Fischer	Melissa	P.O. Box 34032	FBK	AK	99707	Michelle Fischer
3	Curry	Julie	310 Wedge road	D	AK	99701	1606
4	Lungstiff	Jacqueline	1187 Kodiak St.	FBK	AK	99709	Janie Lungstiff
5	W. H. H.	W. H. H.	US 4 P...	FBK	AK	99701	W. H. H.
6	Thompson	Darlene	350 3rd Ave #41	FBK	AK	99701	Darlene Thompson
7	SINOGROUND	Mary	1515 2nd Ave	FBK	AK	99701	Mary Sinoground
8	Jackson	Mary Alice	665 10th Ave #301	FBK	AK	99701	Mary Alice Jackson
9	Gordon K. Chappel	GORDON	11456 TURNER	FBK	AK	99701	Gordon K. Chappel
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PLEASE PRINT

	Last Name	First Name	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Signature
1	MERCER	DORIS	1990 OLDPIONEERR	FBK	AK	99709	Doris C. Mercer
2	Janel	GELINAS	1414 Noble	FBKS	AK	99701	Janel Gelinas
3	HOWARD	GRACE	330-3RD AVE	FBKS	AK	99701	Grace Howard
4	Hale	Sally	862 Senate Dr	FBKS	AK	99712	Sally Hale
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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate
 Committee on Finance Committee Name
 Dated 4/17/02
 Bill / Subject

I believe that the rising cost of doing business is beyond our control, but that doesn't reduce our responsibility to ensure basic needs in the community are met. Under-funding essential services, particularly education and human services will have cascading effects that could take years to turn around, if at all. People who choose to live here will begin to second-guess their decision to live and raise a family here.

We cannot cut our way out of this issue. Rather, we need a fixed plan. I personally am struggling financially to make ends meet, but when asked to choose between a healthy community + some sort of income tax I would certainly choose the latter!

SIGNED: Mike Donaldson
 Testifier
Self
 Representing
Box 61214 Fairbanks, AK 99706
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate ~~budget~~ Finance
 Committee on Senate budget Committee Name Dated 4-18-02
Bill / Subject

To: Sen. Green & Senate Finance.

Thank you for asking for clarification regarding my comments on short-funding foster care.

A zero increase effectively short-funds this program by diminishing the Department's ability to recruit and retain foster families. The need is growing, there is an anticipated

increase in the caseload of children needing foster care; flat funding the foster care base rate is short funding. Thank you for fixing the numbers and for fully funding the bottom project; please help us recruit & retain the essential services of foster families by funding the requested base rate increase.

Please consider an income tax and use of the earnings reserve to fund these critical state services.

SIGNED:

Teber S Reibbaum
 Testifier Teber S Reibbaum

Arctic Alliance for People
 Representing

PO Box 438 Ester AK 99725 907 452 8118
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on: Budget Committee Name
 Dated 4-18-02
Bill / Subject

Cuts in the Alcohol + Drug Abuse budget will cost Alaska much more in the long run. Cuts will reduce Federal matching dollars

Cuts will mean that the system to deal with DWI drivers (ASAP) will be reduced or cut, meaning ~~more~~ a greater burden on the court system.

Cuts mean more people will go to jail - jail is more expensive than treatment.

Cuts mean more people will go to emergency rooms, ERs are more expensive than treatment.

Cuts will mean more impact on DFYS - a system that is also looking at budget cuts. Who is going to protect our children? If they can not get protection at DFYS and other services like foster care, Family Preservation and a reduced State Trooper force, who will protect children exposed to real danger?

Please think about the future of Alaska's children. If the systems that we provide to help people turn their lives around fail - what will our next generation of adults look like?

What will be the quality of life in Alaska? Who will stay to make important decisions?

* ALSO - PLEASE SUPPORT THE HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT *

SIGNED:

Testifier Annette Frubinger

Fairbanks Native Association

Representing

201 1st Ave, Ste 200, Fbks 99701
 Address / Phone Number (907) 452-1648 x223



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on Operating Budget Committee Name Dated 4/18/02
Bill / Subject

Please support Full Funding For the University of Alaska System.

The UA system not only produces PhDs, Masters Degrees, Bachelors Degrees and Associate Degrees. The UA system produces citizens for our state. Economic Development, an enlightened citizenry and a stronger state are all positive effects of a well-funded university system.

Please preserve the momentum of the UA System by fully funding the \$16.9 million request of our university.

SIGNED: Joseph Hardenbrook Joseph HARDENBROOK
Testifier

University of Alaska
Representing

P.O. Box 750362 FAIRBANKS AK 99775 907-455-4820
Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate, Finance
 Committee Name
 Committee on SB 403 / University of Alaska Dated 4/18/02
 Bill / Subject

I would like to ask you to fully fund the university system. The university provides valuable, marketable skills to thousands of Alaskans a year. University graduates, whether they receive an associates, bachelors or above are less likely to spend time in prison, less likely to be on welfare, and make, on average twice as much as those people without a degree. It seems to me that at this point in our state's history, we should invest in something that will both save the state money and create a healthier economy.

It was reported on CNN a few weeks ago that Alaska is one of five states that has a public university system that is affordable for low income residents. This means that the people that need a marketable skill are able to get it. If we are flat-funded, there may be tuition increases, which will leave many Alaskans unable to obtain a degree. Needless to say, over time, state assistance to those people would increase, the economy would suffer even more. Fully funding the UA system is perhaps one of the most important steps to take

In having a healthy, Alaskan economy

SIGNED:

Dennis Spencer
 Testifier

Representing

PO Box 750936, Fairbanks AK 99775 / (907) 455-3614
 Address / Phone Number

April 18, 2002

Alaska State Legislature Senators:

RE: SB 340 Permanent Fund Dividend 'HOLD HARMLESS'
PROVISION REPEAL

I strongly oppose SB 340, that directly affects the Alaska Native population served by the Community Services Department of the Fairbanks Native Association. The membership of Fairbanks Native Association serves the Native population of 5000 residing in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The Community Services Department clientele depends on the permanent fund for winter clothing, their children's school supplies and other essential needs not provided by other financial resources. Also, the permanent fund allows families to purchase eyeglasses and medical supplies not provided by the health care system. Again, on behalf the Community Services clientele (approximately 677 clients) and the Native community, I strongly oppose SB 340. Thank you.
Sincerely, Freda M. Williams, Director, Community Services Department, phone (907) 452-5225, fax (907) 452-6355



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SFIN
 Committee on Budget Committee Name SFIN
 Dated 4/18/02
 Bill / Subject

I think too many cuts may be happening to all kinds of organizations, and that can hurt us all - especially us Alaskans. Alaska is one state that is supporting alot of states with oil, etc... There is alot of alcohol and drug abuse that is already visible, that leads to jobs, hospitals, DFGs, suicides, etc... Now there talking about cutting ^{the} dividends, subsidies that ^{have} been a battle for years, there five been involved with all these mentioned above, ~~from~~ ~~there~~ Now we have to fly into the city to go to treatment centers, be away from families. Maybe it would be easier if we all had everything in our village communities. If we supporting drug and alcohol abuse centers.

SIGNED:

Marilyn J. Anderson
Testifier

WCCIA
Representing

PO-Box 71048, Fairbanks, AK 99707
Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on Budget Committee Name Dated 4/18/02
Bill / Subject

Public Safety, Education, and Public Health indicators are what people and businesses look at when they are considering moving to a state or a community. Maintaining a safety net is essential and deserves our support.

I am willing to contribute through a tax - my preference would be an income tax that could be taken out prior to federal taxes, or a combination of income/sales tax (which would require additional administrative staff.) I would like to ensure that non-Alaskan residents who work in our state and contribute nothing, pay their share.

Please ensure that there is a long term plan to address the constitutionally mandated areas of public safety, public health, and education.

SIGNED:

Testifier

J. Schmidt
self

JENNIFER G. SCHMIDT

Representing

1893 Steele Creek Road,
P.O. Box 82944, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99708

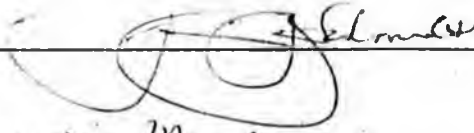
Address / Phone Number 907-457-2312



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on Budget Committee Name
 Dated 4/18/02
Bill Subject

The School Board in your community has been working proactively to help all students achieve their potential. Our proposed budget maintains class size, retains our summer school, adds a middle school math program to address benchmark concerns, and helps prepare principals to deal with anticipated retirements. These are essential items for our school district that can only be addressed if we receive additional funding from the Legislature.

SIGNED: Jennifer Schmidt
 Testifier 
FRSB Board of Education Member
 Representing
1093 Stook Creek Road
PO Box 82944, Fairbanks, Alaska 99708
 Address / Phone Number 4572312



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on State Operating Budget Dated 4.18.02
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

Senator Austerman asked for suggestions on how to increase funds for the operating budget. There are many ideas worth considering:

- increasing taxes on oil
- capping the permanent fund
- using the permanent fund reserve fund
- instituting an income tax
- instituting ~~SIT~~ or increasing "sin" taxes
- statewide sales taxes

— and probably more.

Will they be popular? Probably not. But that should not be how you make the decision. The options are there, use them.

SIGNED: Cheryl Keepers
 Testifier
self
 Representing
Box 74898, Fairbanks, AK 99707
 Address / Phone Number 907-459-1287 (W)



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Affairs
 Committee on Operating Budget Dated 4/17/02
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

As an adult board member of the WBYC since May 2000 and a social work intern with the organization beginning Sept 1999 - May 2000 I have been given the opportunity to observe & participate in a program that serves this community with a dual purpose. The money from the human services grant has enabled this program to provide our youth in the Fairbanks community an opportunity to serve as mentors to their ~~peers~~ peers by working as youth attorneys, judges, & mediators to help alleviate the

SIGNED: Jennifer Asmens
 Testifier
North Star Youth Court
 Representing
125 8th Ave Fairbanks AK 99701
 Address / Phone Number

workload of the Jambanke youth facility probation officers which in return cuts down costs for the division of juvenile justice. Our recidivism rate of 8% is an accomplishment the youth volunteers are proud of & could have been only attained w/ the support of the human services grant.

The second function our youth serve the community is the opportunity that youth court provides for youth ages 12-18 years old. They learn valuable skills as attorneys & mediators that will benefit our community for generations.

Thank you for your time

Janet Asher



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on Proposed Budget for 2003 Dated 4-18-02
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

The proposed cut to the budget will force us to close our 12 bed Residential program at Old Minto Family Recovery Camp. This program is the only treatment center for families in this State. This program serves 125-150 clients nearly. Six positions, people who are Fairbanks residents, will be eliminated. Closing this program means that 125-150 clients will not receive treatment. Our substance abuse prevention program, which is the Think Zoo Newsletter. This 'Newsletter' ^{which} has a circulation of 10,500 over the entire State will be gone from the school. This newsletter focused on Substance Abuse prevention.

SIGNED: Margaret Wilson
 Testifier

~~Thomas Wilson~~ Thomas Wilson Fairbanks Chiefs Conference
 Representing

348 Aquila Fairbanks AK 99712 - 457-7798
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
Committee Name
 Committee on _____ Dated 4-18-02

Bill / Subject

Please fully fund the University of Alaska's board of Regents budget request. Our University is the future of Alaska. During financial downturn the best thing we can do is invest in our Universities.

SIGNED:

Michael Everett

Testifier

Representing

1540 N. Backer

Address / Phone Number

P.O. Box 81213

Fairbanks AK
99708



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE Comm.
 Committee on: UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA Dated 18 APR 92
 Bill / Subject BUDGET

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA IS THE BEST
 IF NOT THE ONLY INSTITUTION WITHIN OUR STATE
 TO IDENTIFY, ^{AND DEVELOP} NEW REVENUE SOURCES, ECONOMIC
 OPPORTUNITIES, AND FUTURE ASSETS.

UA ALSO TRAINS AND EDUCATES ^{OUR FUTURE} ~~OUR FUTURE~~
~~AND~~ LEADERS, EDUCATORS, CRAFTSMEN AND TECHNICIANS
 TO DO THIS THE UNIVERSITY MUST BE FINANCED
 FULLY TO ALLOW ~~TO A CONTINUED~~ THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE
 STATE HAS WITNESSED IN THE PAST 3 YEARS.

THE FULL FUNDING OF UA WILL HAVE A
 DEVASTATING EFFECT AND A LONG TERM ^{IMPACT} ~~EFFECT~~
 ON OUR STATE AND IT'S FUTURE - FUND THE \$16.9 MILLION.

SIGNED:

JOHN C. POOLE

Testifier

UAF TEACHER + VOLUNTARY COMRADE

Representing

325 SPOWY OWLI LANE FORT BAKER AK 99712

Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the financial
 Committee on budget Committee Name Dated 4.18.02
Bill / Subject

Something that has been missing from this debate has been the question of... assuming we get through this budget crisis... what happens next year?

I suggest opening up a debate regarding the elimination of money while re-examining the values of indigenous cultures that successfully prospered long before capitalism entered and took over.

A culture of greed is destined to consume itself greedily

Thank you for consideration in this matter.

As a final suggestion... refer to utopia.nw.cjb.net.
 It costs nothing & is selling nothing... except freedom for ALL

SIGNED: David Roblee
 Testifier
by myself
 Representing
488 5203 nlm@gei.net
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE

Committee on BUDGET Dated 4-18-02
Bill / Subject Committee Name

IN 1998 I ENROLLED AT VIRGINIA TECH. IN BLACKSBURG, VA. IT SOON BECAME APPARENT THAT I WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER. IN JANUARY OF 2001 I BEGAN AN EDUCATION AT VAF. THE CHANGE WAS SIGNIFICANT; PROFESSORS' KNOWLEDGE AND THE QUALITY OF THE EDUCATION RECEIVED WAS, IN MY OPINION, MUCH BETTER.

HOWEVER, I AM CONCERNED WITH THE LEGISLATURE'S APPARENT UNEASE OVER DECIDING TO FULLY FUND THE UNIVERSITY. THE DECISION IS A SIMPLE ONE. DO IT. NOT ONLY IS THE UA SYSTEM ONE OF THE LARGEST EMPLOYERS IN ALASKA, IT'S A GOOD INVESTMENT FOR EVERY \$100 PUT INTO UA, \$450 IS GENERATED. EDUCATION SHOULD BE A TOP PRIORITY FOR EVERYONE. EDUCATION IS KEY TO EVERYONE'S FUTURE. BY REDUCING THE FUNDING OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, THE ENTIRE STATE SUFFERS.

SIGNED:

Testifier

H.I. DERIZ

Representing

1155 LIES AVENUE FAIRBANKS 99709 | 456-5903
Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on HB 403 - op budget Committee Name Dated 041802
Bill / Subject

As of 041802 The budget is not done. It does not reflect needed investment in our state's future. The Uof A needs to be fully funded to fill these goals:

- keep pace with technology developments to make sure graduates are technology savvy.
- attract and retain Alaska high school graduates
- train and educate employees for a changing, diversifying job market
- develop a plan to move Alaska out of solely a resource based economy.

Fight for our Alaska. Fight for Uof A.

Sing forth her glory and fame,

With a spirit bold, fight for the blue and gold.

AMEND THE BUDGET. FUND THE Uof A.

SIGNED: MARTA MUELLER *Marta Mueller*
 Testifier
UAF Student
 Representing
516 Auklet Place Fairbanks 99709
 Address / Phone Number
~~(907) 479-6780~~ (907) 479-6780

ftmrm@uaf.edu

April 18, 2002

To Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

We are currently attending our State PTA convention in Anchorage. As members of the Fairbanks community, and representing more than 22 local Parent-Teacher Association, we strongly encourage you to increase education. Funding by the \$190 per student level for FY 03.

Parent-Teacher Associations in Fairbanks regularly donate funds for numerous reasons to help meet basic educational needs in our schools. Each year we are being asked to do more with less – this at a time when we have established higher standards and greater expectations for both students and teachers.

Quality education is our priority. We believe it is yours too. We hope you will show your support by voting to increase state education funding.

Naomi Walsworth, Fairbanks Council of PTA President
Viletta Knight, Alaska PTA Regional II Vice President.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on HB 403 Committee Name Dated 4/11/02
Bill / Subject

I am writing to urge full funding for the University of Alaska operating budget. We rely too much on oil and we know where that has gotten us. The university can help diversify our ~~economy~~ ^{economy}. The university has been responsible with spending and you have seen this. To cut an university budget will stop the momentum. ~~stopping~~ We cannot afford to stop. The new programs are creating jobs for Alaskans and responding to the needs of the state. Yes there is a budget shortfall but I think you can find a way to do the right thing & support full funding.

SIGNED: Cynthia R Brinkley
 Testifier

Representing
 725 Cardinal Ct. Fbks
 PO Box 73453 Fbks 99707 458-8002
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Budget & Finance Comm.
 Committee on full funding for the Univ. Dated 4/18/02
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

If time had permitted I would have introduced my three school age children: Elizabeth (8yrs); Kekuewa (7yrs) and Lupu (3yrs). Coincidentally they are the three reasons I urge you to fully fund the Univ. of Alaska.

I returned to Alaska from a state that has wrestled with this very issue: reduced funding for higher ed. That State (Oregon) is finding it increasingly difficult to maintain their public system of higher ed. - I hope Alaska can avoid such a fate.

It is not a question of whether my children will go to college - the real question is where they will attend. We cannot expect parents or their children to select a school that does not receive full support of its legislative ^{public} body.

Thank you for this opportunity.

SIGNED: Saichi T. Oba (Saichi T. Oba)
 Testifier Elizabeth Oba
Kekuewa Oba, Lupu Oba
 Representing
PO Box 750105, Fairbanks, AK 99775 907 4882955
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Subcommittee
 Committee on Cuts/Revenues Committee Name
 Dated April 18, 2002
Bill / Subject

THE TIME HAS COME TO CONCENTRATE ON REVENUE PRODUCING IDEAS AND NOT CONCENTRATING ON HOW WE CAN BALANCE THE BUDGET ON THE BACKS OF ALASKA'S POOR. I urge you to walk a mile in the shoes of those in your district who are down on their luck and need a little help finding their way. And if you are in a district full of middle class and high class, remember the biblical quote, "There but for the grace of God go I."

The proposed service cuts of tens of millions in a single year, plus the denial of strategic investments for children and the economy, will force layoffs of troopers and child protection workers, end a program to speed up adoptions and cut back on public health nurses. I ask you to reconsider!

It is time we looked at the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend. It has been an awesome gift however, it is time that we started acting like responsible citizens and consider eliminating it or reducing it. I also support the alcohol excise tax: SB 347.

I know you have some very tough decisions and I am confident when you remember we are dealing with people's lives you will have the courage to speak up and make the right decisions.

SIGNED: Coleen Turner, Coleen Turner
 Testifier

Representing
141 Nilgrub Ave 99712 479-5176
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance

Committee on HOJA Open Bud Dated 4/18/02
Bill / Subject Committee Name

The Legislature needs to continue the impetus begun with the increased funding over the last three years. The future of our children and our workforce is in your hands. Invest in our future. Fully fund the University. Continue to support our best interests.

SIGNED:

Betty Kump
Testifier

University of Alaska
Representing

PO Box 82969, Fairbanks, AK
Address / Phone Number

907-479-4590



Provided by David Hull
AK Council of Emergency Services Bd.

April 15, 2002

Southeast Region Emergency Medical Services Council
P.O. Box 259 100 Clothilde Bahovec Way Sitka, Alaska 99835 907-747-8005

Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

Dear Sir or Madam:

As the governing body of the Southeast Region EMS Council, we are writing to protest any cuts to the State EMS office or the Regional EMS Councils. Any cuts to these programs erode the infrastructure of support that has been meticulously built over the past 25 years. These cuts would effect the VOLUNTEER EMS systems around the state.

Many of our services are no longer in existence or have decreased their level of training because of depleted funds for training and equipping these volunteers. Many systems depend on the local municipality or governing board for support and since the municipal revenue sharing funds have been slashed, there is less money than ever to provide for basic needs.

Cuts to the EMS program will translate in elimination of the mini-grant program. These funds usually provided through the State EMS Operating grant allows for the purchase of disposable supplies, ambulance insurance, training needs, gas and equipment. The scholarship program also established by SEREMS to help with costs associated with training will no longer be available to volunteers, greatly impacting the finances of the services.

Cuts may also translate in loss of staff at the regional level, which in turn will eliminate programs such as our pediatric injury prevention program and our CPR/First Aid program. That in turn translates into more children improperly seat-belted or helmeted and fewer people trained to provide bystander CPR. ***Cuts to EMS funds will mean increases in potential injury and a decrease of survivability. This is too high a price to pay!***

Last year the Governor proposed and the legislature provided for 'seed' money with the Code Blue project. That small investment from the state was combined with four other funding sources to provide almost \$6million in EMS capital equipment throughout the state. Although this funding was put to good use replacing aging ambulances and outdated equipment, more is needed to continue improving our system.

At a time that increases to the EMS grants is desperately needed, please consider carefully any cuts to our operating and capital budgets as the volunteer EMS systems who serve Alaska may no longer exist. The Alaska EMS motto is Neighbor Helping Neighbor. Please help them do their jobs!


Respectfully submitted,

The Southeast Region Emergency Medical Council

Melita Cavanaugh, RN Bartlett Regional Hospital
Danava-Jacobson MD Petersburg Medical Center
Qui to Welby MD Bartlett Regional Hospital
Tom Meacham Kake EMS

Sandra K. Dixon Petersburg
James Kleinfurth Ketchikan FIRE/EMS

Doug A. Cromwell 2nd Lt, Petersburg VFD
D. Thompson Agam EMS Training Coordinator

 HAWES VOL FIRE DEPT.
Matt J. Mett S.E.A.R.H.C.


Allen Stover Pelican Volunteer Fire & EMS

Elaine Caskey Ketchikan General Hospital

Cynthia L. Jones Harris Volunteer Fire Dept.

Keith R. Walker Capital City Fire/Rescue

Sam Bunge, Volunteer Fire Chief, Petersburg

 ASST. FIRE CHIEF Wrangell Fire Dept

Yvonne Norman RN Sitka Community Hospital

Beatrice S. Johnson RN Wrangell Medical Center

Dave McCandless MD Wrangell AK

Michael K. Ass^{MS} HAWES VOL FIRE DEPT.
DRLIF KACHUSAT



April 15, 2002

Southeast Region Emergency Medical Services Council
P.O. Box 259 100 Clothilde Bahovec Way Sitka, Alaska 99835 907-747-8005

Governor Tony Knowles
Commissioner Jay Livey
State of Alaska Legislators

Dear Sir/Madam:

As the Executive Director of the Southeast Region EMS Council, I would like to protest any budget cuts being considered to the State EMS office or to the Regional EMS Councils.

Our EMS system is built on the volunteers of this state. Currently, EMS systems statewide are suffering from the lack of local support due to cuts to the municipal revenue sharing, downturns in local economies and the tremendous costs of training. The services are also being decimated by the inability to recruit and retain prehospital providers.

Many services no longer exist in communities such as Port Protection, Coffman Cove, Pt. Baker, Port Alexander, Edna Bay, Meyers Chuck, Naukati, Hyder to name just a few. Many others, such as Klawock, Hollis, Craig, Petersburg, Skagway, Kake, Hoonah and Yakutat are struggling to maintain their current levels of certification. Even larger services such as Sitka, Ketchikan and Juneau depend on volunteers to keep the costs of providing prehospital services at a minimum.

With the demands placed on EMS by the tourism, fishing and mining industries and the lack of available funds to help these volunteers offset the skyrocketing costs of training, many will cease to exist. This means that there will be no EMS response to cries for help.

Funding for the Regional EMS offices has been comparatively flat for the past 8 years. The Regional offices have cut programs, been unable to provide management assistance, reduced employee benefits and have been unable to provide for basic training needs in rural Alaska. This has affected our infrastructure. Cuts to the SE Region EMS budget will be reflected in the loss of mini-grant funds to the communities. These mini-grants are sometimes the ONLY source of revenue these EMS have, except for the local bake sales. They are used to pay for insurance on their ambulances, gas, disposable supplies, and the filling of oxygen tanks. It would also mean the scholarship fund that was established to help reduce the costs of training for volunteers would cease to be available.

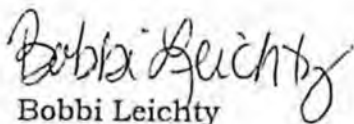
In light of the events of September 11, 2001, it does not make much sense to cut the support to our first line of defenders – the volunteer EMS providers. At a time when more funding is desperately needed to re-build whole systems, it seems ludicrous to slash the small amount of funding that remains.

Funds allocated by the Legislature last year for the Code Blue project allowed for the partnership of five different funding sources that totaled approximately \$6 million. More 'seed' money is needed to replace aging ambulances, outdated equipment and improving training.

With the constant threat of natural disasters (earthquakes, tsunamis, avalanches, and destructive storms) and the more recent threat of weapons of mass destruction, building a solid foundation of basic responders is essential. They must be recruited, trained, equipped and supported if we expect their help in times of need.

Please find enclosed many letters protesting the potential cuts to the EMS budget. These are the people who will be on the receiving end of these cuts. They may or may not be there when you need them.

Sincerely,



Bobbi Leichty
Executive Director
Southeast Region EMS Council

APRIL 14, 2002

TO: GOVERNOR TONY KNOWLES
COMMISSIONER LIVEY
ALASKA LEGISLATORS

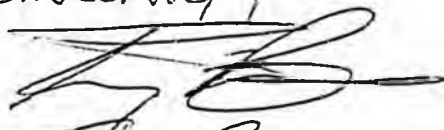
FRAN'S TERRY BUSINESS
BOX 681
WRANGELL ALASKA 99929

DEAR SIRS/MADAM:

I'M WRITING TO ADDRESS MY CONCERN ABOUT THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S PROPOSAL TO CRITICALLY CUT THE BUDGETS ON BOTH THE EMS STATE OFFICE AND THE GRANTS TO ~~THE~~ ^{THE} EMS REGIONAL COUNCILS. I'VE BEEN AN EMT WITH MY FIRE DEPT. FOR OVER 25 YEARS AND HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH EMS STATEWIDE SERVING BOTH ON THE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL BOARD (SEREMS) AND GOVERNOR'S ALASKA COUNCIL ON EMS FOR OVER 15 YEARS. FUNDING FOR THE REGIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE HAS REMAINED FLAT FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS IN SPITE OF INCREASED EXPENSES, (IE. INSURANCE, TRAVEL COSTS, RENT INCREASES, WAGES, RENT LIKES, EQUIPMENT FAILURE). THE CORE BLUE PROJECT THAT HAS TAKEN ALMOST 8 YEARS TO ACCOMPLISH MAY BE A WASTE IF THESE CUTS ARE MADE. THE REGIONS ARE STRUGGLING TO MAINTAIN BAREBONE OPERATIONS NOW. ANY FURTHER CUTS WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF ESSENTIAL CORE PROGRAMS, & OR POTENTIAL

COMPLETE LOSS OF ~~EMERGENCY~~ SERVICES IN CERTAIN
AREAS. TRAINING IS REQUIRED MORE AND MORE
BECAUSE OF INCREASED REGULATIONS, MORE OBJECTIVES
THAT NEED TO BE MET FOR CERTIFICATION,
INCREASED REQUESTS FOR SERVICE. PLEASE CORRECT
THIS ILL THOUGHT PROPOSAL AND RETURN FUNDING
BACK TO AT LEAST WHERE IT HAS BEEN. THANKS
FOR YOUR PAST SUPPORT OF EMS.

SINCERELY,



TERRY BUNESS

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators


FROM: LYNN PRYUNKA, MD
Physician Sponsor, Udon

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I am very concerned that the state is focusing its funding cuts on the EMS organization. Alaska has an EMS organization that through geographic necessity is leaps ahead of most states in the US in terms of its global organization, standards, and support to small communities. The citizens in these small communities benefit hugely from the influence the state EMS organization has on the practices + procedures of their local + often voluntary EMS departments. Without the state leadership, these small departments would no longer be able to maintain their current standards + the citizens in these communities would be the ultimate victims.

I encourage you to carefully consider the longterm ramifications of your proposed funding cuts. The State EMS Organization is remarkable in what it has achieved, however it needs continued funding to continue with the high standards + performance it + Alaska now enjoy.

Sincerely


A. S. Sumbha MD
Wrangell EMS Physician Sponsor
Chief of Staff Wrangell
Medical Center

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I do not believe you realize what these proposed funding cuts would do to our State's EMS program; especially in rural communities. Currently, in my community the members of the Volunteers EMS and Fire Department Squads have just begun rebuilding after losing nearly all of their more experienced members. The volunteers who have come forward to fill in the gaps of the Squads need training and are looking forward to serving our community. Without this training, their ability to help our community is limited by law, and the chances are that they would withdraw from the Squad.

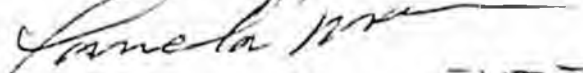
The training required for an EMT/ETT to serve a rural community's EMS needs is a very important need. The proposed funding cuts will eliminate our community's source of volunteer EMS members. Without this funding, keeping my current level of certification and/or

moving up a level, will be impossible,

~~level~~ ^(Certified) At this time, I am the highest ~~level~~ EMT on the Squad. Our higher level EMTs have either expired or moved away. We need New Volunteers, without SEREMS, our ability to serve our community's needs is severely hampered. Without funding and SEREMS, keeping our experienced members or bringing in new volunteers becomes impossible. Without funding, EMS in our community will probably die & so will people.

In closing I ask that you reconsider the cuts to EMS services. Without EMS, the lives of people in rural communities will be put at risk. The long-term & short-term effects of such cuts, follow on top of other funding changes & economic blows to communities already struggling to just survive. Please reconsider this.

Sincerely,



Pamela Nelson, EMT I

Box 144E7

Thorne Bay, AK 99919

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: DALE ERICKSON RN
BARTLETT REGIONAL HOSPITAL
EMERGENCY DEPT
SUNDERLAND, ALASKA 99783

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I am writing to request your reconsideration of any proposed cuts to the state and Regional EMS programs. I would strongly urge the Alaska legislature to at least maintain current funding levels, and to consider increasing the EMS funding to S.E. Region.

S.E. EMS provides essential training, equipment, supplies to communities whose isolation significantly delays the delivery of hospital-based health care services. It is the first and often EMS provides health care that are able to provide life-sustaining care to the citizens of these communities until appropriate transport arrangements are made.

Timely care and interventions greatly influence the outcome of trauma/injury/illness/care victims. By providing immediate timely support for EMS services and citizens in particular, we show a respect for the health and well-being of the citizens of the State of Alaska.



What is expected of a government by its people.

Do not cut funding, consider increasing the appropriation,
and make these decisions knowing you are doing the right
thing for the people of this state.

Respectfully,

David G. Wilson, M.D.

Chief of Cardiology

Cardiology Dept., Parkland Regional Hospital

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Pat Chapman
PO Box 7674
Ken, AK 99541

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I encourage you to not cut the Grants to the EMS regions. Small communities rely upon these to provide certification, training and guidance to keep, train and equip the volunteers in the villages.

Many of the small communities the basic funding is the mini grants the regions provide. The preceptorship provided with the funding to the regions is what helps bring that isolated volunteer to a place to help him or her (volunteer) skill up.

Without the EMS Regions S.F. Alaska Communities exist have equipment and NO trained volunteers to use the equipment.

The Tourist the State is enticing up here will have no EMS to assist in an emergency. The

Citizens and they will have no trained
volunteers to help them in an emergency.

The funds from the State to the
EMS Regions is vital life Blood of the
EMS System in Alaska. Please Keep
the funding at the level we have had
the last few years.

Help us help our neighbors.

Pat Chapman.

President of Meyers Creek
Since 1967

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: John M. ~~Maas~~, EMT II
P.O. Box 447
CRAIG AK 99921

Dear Sirs/Madam:
I'd like to draw your attention to the State Finance Subcommittee is currently proposing cuts to State and Regional EMS program budgets. As an active member of a small rural EMS service I strongly oppose this action. I feel that it is not in the communities, regions, or states financial best interest to support flatly or even increase budgets for EMS.

The reasons I oppose cuts to State and Regional EMS budgets are many. First and foremost is that small rural services use grants from these organizations to provide basic training and equipment. Small sites like mine do not have funds to make up the loss of grants as our revenue showing and other sources of income such as our 5% sales tax have declined. We do bill all patients using our service but with the economy as it currently is in South East we average about 50% payment. Also trained personnel have had to relocate to find jobs causing an extreme shortage of trained members. Our only hope to gain replacements is to provide training locally. To do this State and regional offices need to have money to send instructors and testing officers to the communities.

A final point that I would like to bring up is if economic conditions remain the same in South East Local EMS will be seeking sicker patients. People will not see Doctors or go to clinics and hospitals until problems become acute. This means that local resources will be further stretched and require increased equipment and training.

(sent on Wed)

In conclusion, admittedly it is time to watch
the state budget but it is not time to cut
funding that supports such a valuable service to
so many ~~for~~ people. If support is not
continued people in small communities might
call 911 and find no one is there.

Yours truly

John N. Moots

John N. Moots

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Jerry Dean Gullstrand

Pelican
Volunteer Fire & EMT I

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I recently was made aware of legislatures proposed Budget Cuts, and this one on my regional EMS System will have a very devastating affect on ~~any~~ all Rural Bush EMS systems such as the one I belong. Pelican Volunteer Fire & EMS Our Department is all Volunteer except one minimal paying position, ~~and~~ I have been an EMT I since 1996. without the (Grants to Region) program I would have never been able to even afford the training needed to become a certified EMT I, nor would any other of the EMT's in my Department, Remember most All of the EMT's in S.E. Alaska are all volunteers If the ~~Re-~~(Grants to Region) money is cut, there are going to be a lot of EMT's including myself, that can't afford to stay certified. we all volunteer a lot of hours to help others, but without govt. help. ~~we~~ we are in trouble. So I urge legislature to reconsider this Budget Cut. or

This is one Volunteer EMT I This State will lose

Thank you

Jerry Gullstrand

DS →

If you do cut this from the Budget,
I pray you ^{all} if you Ever need an EMT in
the Bush smsh as pelican Ak, Because here
probably wont Be any
Thank again

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: *Hester S. Johnson*

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I have been working as an RN in Wrangell for 31 years. In fact I was born & raised in Wrangell. I have closely followed SEREMS since its inception in the late 70's both as a clinician & citizen interested in EMS, & as a Bd. member. I have lived through the years of ample monies as well as the lean years.

I know that all of you are faced with difficult decisions as you ~~work~~ another budget year, but please consider the following:

- 1) The volunteers in EMS are the backbone of Alaska's EMS system, & it's a tiered system.
- 2) We at the clinical level cannot always see good outcomes if the lower levels (bystander ^{1st} ~~responders~~ CPR, 1st Aid, ETT, EMT I, II, III's) are not - there to do their part and they do it very well!
- 3) SEREMS staff & Bd meticulously prepare grant applications & capital request lists with a great deal of scrutiny as to fiscal responsibility & appropriateness of request.
- 4) Both the state & regional offices are also involved in injury prevention as well as care of the injured.
- 5) Our paid staff at SEREMS ~~are~~ enthusiastically volunteered in their communities as well.

(over)

6. Volunteers burn out & move away & constantly need to be replaced by newly trained volunteers.

Please take a moment to imagine the following scenario because it could possibly happen. You are campaigning or vacationing on a small island in SE Alaska & you've brought your 2 year old child or grandchild with you to show him/her the special beauty of the island. He/she falls off the dock as you're getting set to put on ~~his/her~~ PFD, but before you were able to do so. He/she is floating face down in the water. You haven't taken time out of your busy schedule to learn CPR & the only people with you do not know CPR. The community members say: What should we do? Joe Doe would have known what to do but he's the only one on the island who has taken the training & he's out for medical care of his wife. So? Would you know what to do? Someone probably would if you ~~hadn't~~ ^{haven't} cut our EMS funds. We have taken 5-10% cuts for the last 8 years by virtue of ~~that~~ no increase in grant funding & increased costs. With the threat of terrorism in our present world, now is not the time to do any cuts to EMS funding. I urge you to do the right thing! Make your cuts elsewhere. EMS funding cuts can affect all citizens! Thank you for your time & efforts.

Sincerely,
H. Trude S. Johnson RA!

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Rose Irisby

Dear Sirs/Madam:

This letter is in reference to the recommendation by the State Finance Committee to cut approximately \$37,000.00 from the State and Regional EMS Programs for the State of AK.

As it is now - the "little people" are the ones who will feel the effects of these cuts most. It is hard enough to keep disposable stock on hand so the rural EMT can provide the necessary care to community members.

We hear a lot about communities asking for funding to replace "unsafe" ambulances throughout the state - what about the community that does not have a road system to drive on and they cannot afford a little wheel to attach to the one stoker wheel they use to transport patients to their clinic for treatment.

The EMT is critical to each community - they are required to get at least 24 hrs of continuing medical education every 2 yrs to recertify. That doesn't sound like much but when you have to spend \$20.00 (usually out of pocket) to take an 8 hr class that costs \$100.00, not including loss of wage because jobs in these places don't have any benefits. - This

is another cause of burnout/turnover with EMS squads

We are going backward in budgeting - Everybody says - use the resources in the community - what are they? You have cut every funding source there is to tap in to

I hope EMS budgets are not cut so drastically that services disappear in rural settings.

I ~~wish~~ hope that all Senate Finance Subcommittee members feel strongly about responders in the communities - especially after Senator Ojens AMI in Palmer. This funding to provide the training and supplies to keep the service up and running is more important than the per diem another member of the AK State Legislature was getting to visit his family out of state and found the loophole to account for the expenses as business.

I started in rural AK as an EMT & I have continued with my training - mostly out of my own pocket - and 2 yrs ago got certified nationally as a paramedic. Why? Because I believe in the system. It is needed in every community in AK.

Rox Finley - MICP

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Sandy Tackett RN
Director, Nursing Petersburg Medical Center
PO Box 589 Petersburg, AK 99833

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I currently have the privilege of representing the Petersburg Medical Center on the South East Region EMS Board. Over the past 10 years I have seen the improvement in quality of Emergency care & educational opportunities emphasized by the SEREMS Organization.

Our unique rural communities depend on highly functioning EMS systems to meet the needs in our communities.

Petersburg has worked very hard to establish a working relationship between EMS & hospital personnel. Continued educational offerings offered through SEREMS & EMS Symposiums have helped in this effort.

SEREMS has worked for many years to stretch grant funding & improve the quality of services & coordination of education within our region. Staff is highly motivated & dedicated to Emergency medical care in our region.

Decrease in funding will greatly impact our region. The proposed cuts in funding would mean the elimination of one full time

employee. Decreases in scholarship funding,
travel + courses offered would also occur.
These types of cuts impact all Southeast
communities on a very basic level. Many
small communities depend on grant funding
from SEREMS for basic operating costs,
insurance, etc.

I would like to strongly recommend
maintaining current funding levels to
SEREMS.

Stop to consider what cuts you are
willing to risk in our communities.

I appreciate your continued support
of Emergency Medical Services in Alaska.

Pamela Jachett

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: SAM BUNGE, E.M.T.
VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF
PETERSBURG, ALASKA

Dear Sirs/Madam:

GOVERNMENTS EXIST FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CITIZENS. IN TERMS OF PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE, THE VOLUNTEER & CARER SYSTEM OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE THAT IS ALREADY IN PLACE WITHIN THE STATE OF ALASKA IS THE BIGGEST BARGAIN THIS STATE PROVIDES. MOST PRE-HOSPITAL E.M.S. IS PROVIDED BY VOLUNTEERS. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT OUR E.M.S. SYSTEM IS FREE. THERE ARE STANDARDS & PROTOCOLS OF CARE THAT MUST BE KEPT UP TO DATE, EQUIPMENT WEARS OUT, SUPPLIES ARE CONSUMED, SKILLS MUST BE DRILLED & REVISED, AMBULANCES NEED TO BE ACQUIRED & MAINTAINED. IN MANY OF THE SMALL TOWNS OF ALASKA, ALREADY STRIPPED OF STATE AID TO LOCAL GOVTS, THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH FINANCIAL RESOURCES, & E.M.S. IS DISAPPEARING. THIS IS A WASTE & A DANGER TO THE PUBLIC.

MOST CITIZENS & LEGISLATORS RARELY, IF EVER, NEED TO CALL 9-1-1. BUT ALL OF US COUNT ON A PROMPT, EFFECTIVE, WELL-TRAINED RESPONSE. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ALASKANS CALL 9-1-1 & NOBODY COMES?

STATE FUNDING FOR E.M.S. GRANTS & FOR REGIONAL E.M.S. COUNCILS IS A VITAL PROGRAM THAT DESERVES TO BE INCREASED - CERTAINLY NOT CUT.

Sam Bunge
VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF

Gail Tharpe-Lucero
SEREMS Board Member
P O Box 9
Angoon, AK 99820
April 15, 2002

Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801

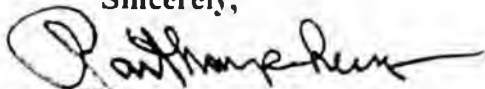
Dear Servants of Alaska,

At a time when the legislature is looking for a place to reduce its fiscal expenditures, it is important to emphasize the importance of fully funding emergency medical services in Alaska. The interactions that I have been privileged to have with Southeast Regional Emergency Medical Services has shown them to be a dedicated group of people who work tirelessly to assist rural communities and volunteers to provide critical services.

Money SEREMS receives from grants and appropriations are allocated to provide communities with training, equipment and information that these communities would not have access to otherwise. The SEREMS staff works diligently to stay in touch with the communities that they serve. They do this in order to have realistic information about problems and needs that exist. This is a high priority to the SEREMS staff to ensure that the financial assistance they distribute is done so in a manner to best serve the needs of a very diverse region.

I am asking the legislature to fully support EMS services. I hope that the legislature realizes that at this time of increased concern for need of emergency response capabilities increased support would be a more appropriate response.

Sincerely,



Gail Tharpe-Lucero
EMT III, SEREMS Board Member

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Willie Matikan
PO Box 5285
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Dear Sirs/Madam:

It has come to my attention that the STATE OF ALASKA is planning a reduction of about \$1,537,000.00 to the regional E.M.S. office. In the Southeast region alone, would be devastating. The duty to provide patients and victims with emergency medical care in the field is very important. The initial response time of field trained personnel to provide appropriate and quality medical care is CRITICAL to the patients outcome.

Since the legislature slashed the municipal revenue sharing a couple of years ago, EMS systems have struggled to keep up the level of training and equipment.

These reductions would result in fewer trained personnel and training programs, longer waits for training and certifications, and erosion of high level of care we have all worked so hard to maintain.

Sincerely

Willie Matikan

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: David Matlecin FF/EMT
P.O. Box 5285
KETCHIKAN, AK.

Dear Sirs/Madam: 99901

It has come to my attention that the STATE OF ALASKA is planning a reduction of about \$1,537,000.00 to the regional E.M.S. office. In the Southeast region alone, would be devastating. The duty to provide patients and victims with emergency medical care in the field is very important. The initial response time of field trained personnel to provide appropriate and quality medical care IS CRITICAL to the patients outcome.

Since the legislature slashed the municipal revenue sharing a couple of years ago, EMS systems have struggled to keep up the level of training and equipment.

These reductions would result in fewer trained personnel and training programs, longer waits for training and certifications, and erosion of high level of care we have all worked so hard to maintain.

Sincerely



April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Haines Vol Fire Dept
Al Badger (Training Officer)
Box 848

Dear Sirs/Madam: Haines, AK 99827

I urge you to fund EMS in Alaska to last years level. The amount of volunteer time & effort of EMTs in our small communities needs support to keep trained & prepared. Communities are finding difficulty funding services and with state cuts many may just become non-existent. The regional offices are vital for keeping ambulance services going. please support them fully.

Thank you

Al Badger

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: K. G. Lewis

Dear Sirs/Madam:

Please don't reduce EMS funding in Alaska. In fact more funds are needed.

Our people have less money from small municipalities for training and/or travel for training.

EMS trained people numbers are getting smaller as people can't get monies for training.

Communities are hurting.

Thank you

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Jackie Labuire, RN
Sitka Community Hosp, Sitka, AK 99835

Dear Sirs/Madam:

EMS money should be at the absolute bottom of the list of budget cuts. I have been a nurse in Alaska for more than 30 years, and have seen first-hand the difference in outcome that occurs when emergency personnel are appropriately trained and have the proper equipment with which to practice. Dollars cut are lives lost! Please leave EMS dollars alone!

Jackie Labuire
P.O. Box 6369
Sitka AK 99835

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Dear Sirs/Madam:

Throughout the State of Alaska budget-cutting seems to be the rallying cry, while agencies of all kinds implore that theirs not be among the budgets that are cut.

So how is E.M.S. any different? Off-hand, I can think of three reasons:

- EMS is already minimally funded. Using volunteer workers, EMS has long been on a bare-bones budget with the small amount allotted by the state being spread around in an effort to make it serve all.
- The consequences are potentially so severe if underfunding of educational and support services reduce the efficacy of EMS.
- EMS provides its service to all Alaskans. The impact of any reduction of funding here will be felt very broadly indeed.

Sincerely,

Bill Riechert

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: THOMAS H. LAURENT JR.

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I HAVE NOTICED A DISTURBING TRENDS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS WITH THE WAY THE BUDGETS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES HAS BEEN GOING IN THIS STATE. FIRST THE PAY WAS CUT. I AGREE WITH THAT. BUT, FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS THE LEGISLATURE IS INSISTING ON CUTTING THE MEAT. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES HAS HAD THE SAME BUDGET FOR FIVE YEARS. FLAT FUNDING IS A DECREASE IN ACTUAL DOLLARS SPENT FOR IMPROVING PROTOCOLS AND SERVICE AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS. IN ADDITION TO THE LOSS OF DOLLARS FROM THE STATE, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES HAS BEGUN CHARGING A FEE TO TAKE THE STATE EXAM. THIS FURTHER REDUCES THE MONEY AVAILABLE AT A LOCAL LEVEL FOR BOTH TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT. IT ALSO SEEMS TO BE ABSURD TO REQUIRE PEOPLE TO PAY TO VOLUNTEER. ALSO, DUE TO THE HIGH COST IN BOTH TIME AND MONEY REQUIRED FOR INITIAL AND RECURRENT TRAINING, SOME SERVICES HAVE BEEN FORCED TO CLOSE. THE LATEST EXAMPLE IS THE POND REEF FIRE DEPT. IN KETCHIKAN WHICH RAN THE FIRST VOLUNTEER AIR MEDICAL SERVICE IN SOUTHEAST. I URGE YOU STRONGLY TO NOT CUT ANY FUNDS FOR EMS AT THE STATE LEVEL! IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE BE ABLE TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE IN THE BUSH AND SMALLER TOWNS OF THE SAME QUALITY THAT EXISTS IN ANCHORAGE AND FAIRBANKS. FULLY FUNDING THE PROGRAM AT THE STATE LEVEL HELPS IMMENSELY WITH THAT GOAL.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Laurent Jr.

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: KEITH F. WALKER
JUNEAU, AK

Dear Sirs/Madam:

While I understand the need to reduce state spending in today's economy, I am concerned about the proposed cuts to the already low EMS budgets. The smaller communities, ^{and} throughout the state are barely existing due to lack of volunteers, adequate training and equipment. Any further reductions to those entities who train and support those communities' EMS squads will cripple them even more.

The "grants to regions" monies are relied upon by these smaller communities to provide medical care to their friends and neighbors. Without this money they may well not have the basic supplies to help. If the truth were told these budget items need to be increased not decreased!

The State EMS office is responsible to ensure that care providers are properly trained and certified. This should be a concern to all of us as one day it could be us that need the care of an EMS provider.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed cuts.
Sincerely,

Keith F. Walker

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I AM NEW TO THE FIELD OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES. I WAS CERTIFIED LAST YEAR AS AN EMT-1. IN THE TIME I HAVE SPENT WITHIN THE EMS SYSTEM I HAVE FOUND THAT MOST OF THE SOUTH EAST IS RUNNING AT OR NEAR A MINIMUM FOR THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE.

REDUCTION OF THE BUDGET WOULD SEVERLY CRIPPLE THE HEALTH CARE WE PROVIDE.

I LIVE IN SKAGWAY, IF THERE WERE A REDUCTION IN FUNDS TO OUR COMMUNITY DIRECTLY, OR A REDUCTION THAT IMPACTS TRAINING/RE-CERTIFICATION OF OUR EMT'S OUR SMALL COMMUNITY WOULD SUFFER IMMENSELY.

IN SHORT DO NOT CUT FUNDING.

THOMAS LUX EMT-1/EMT-B SKAGWAY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.
P.O. BOX 662
SKAGWAY, AK 99840

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM: Gregory Wong
206 Marine Street
Sitka, AK 99835

Dear Sirs/Madam:

Thank you for taking the time to consider my appeal for re-consideration of Senate Finance Subcommittee's proposed budget cuts for EMS in Alaska.

I have recently become involved with the Sitka Volunteer Fire Department's divisions of Ambulance service, and Search & Rescue (SAR). I arrived at the department fresh out of my EMT class. I knew the material and felt confident in what we had practiced and learned. Joining the department in Sitka has allowed me practice my skills, and learn on an incredible amount through other volunteers. Our teachers are volunteers, and we run the departments because we like to help others. But, the departments at the city, and state level do not run themselves. To operate, there need to be paid staff that can devote themselves to organizing departments, education events for the community, and training for us volunteers.

Thank you again

Sincerely,
Gregory Wong
Sitka Volunteer Fire Department

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I am very concerned about the slashing of funds for the EMS programs. These programs are vital to the health of our communities. I urge you not to cut funding.

Pia Randall

Pia Randall-Gnutter
801 Sirstad St.
Sitka, AK 99835

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

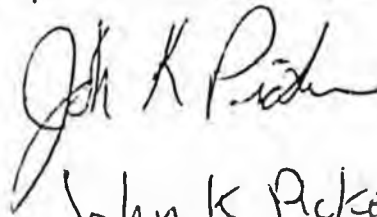
FROM:

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I am a volunteer, along with everyone, except 2 employees at the Fire Department. Members of our Volunteer Fire Department contribute thousands of hours annually to our community, as do many others throughout Alaska. We work for free to protect the lives and property of our friends & neighbors.

If you cut our budgets by the drastic amounts proposed, it will make it that much more difficult for us to perform our volunteer labor for the public good.

I urge you not to decrease any funding to Alaska Emergency Medical Services



John K Picken

PO Box 1478

Petersburg, AK 99933

johnk@alaska.net

April 13, 2002

TO: Governor Knowles
Commissioner Livey
Alaska Legislators

FROM:

Dear Sirs/Madam:

Few people realize the work that is done on a daily basis to respond to emergency situations. Most people assume that if 'they' are having a crisis a highly trained, overly paid professional fire crew and or medic crew will quickly respond to assist them. The truth is different. The majority - vast majority - of emergency responders in Alaska are volunteers. There is no other occupation with such an elaborate network of training and service. The small amount of money the state spends on EMS is channelled into groups that then propagate a much larger volunteer effort. A giant pyramid scheme. Any cuts to these programs incurs a disproportionate loss to our numbers of responders.