

**ALASKA LEGISLATURE**

**2575**

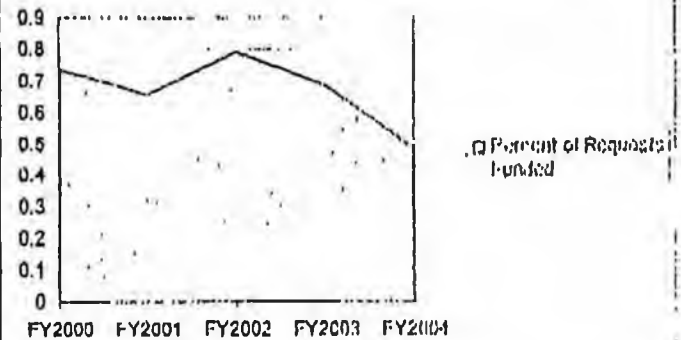
**HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 2003-2004**

241

**State Funding Decreased 42% Since FY 2002.**

The community lost the potential to generate \$459,466, \$769,652, and \$1,287,480 of other funds, project income and in-kind contributions in FY02-03-04 respectively, due to insufficient state funding.

Percent of Requests Funded FY00-FY04



**FY 2004 Human Services Community Matching Grant Projects Funded**

Agency	Brief Project Description	Grant Amount	Other Funds, Project Income & In-Kind Contributions
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Match children in need of additional adult attention with adult volunteers.	\$50,000	\$919,862
Fairbanks Community Food Bank	Collect local surplus food and give it to people who need it, through agencies who are trained to identify and respond to those needs.	\$40,000	\$2,052,000
Alaska Legal Services Corp.	Provide legal assistance to low-income families (those with incomes below 125% of poverty level) in civil cases such as housing, income, public assistance benefits, health care and family law.	\$10,000	\$60,508
Interior Community Health Center	Provide preventative & primary health care services on a sliding fee schedule to low & moderate income people.	\$50,000	\$181,000
North Star Council on Aging	Deliver hot healthy meals to homebound elders living within the FNSB, to include frozen meal service on weekends.	\$50,000	\$268,343
North Star Youth Court	Operate community-based juvenile justice diversion and victim/offender mediation program.	\$50,000	\$181,806
Interior AIDS Association	Provide a full service, methadone maintenance treatment program to opiate dependent persons. (Requested \$49,550 but only \$31,014 was available)	\$31,014	\$130,718
<b>Total Projects Funded</b>		<b>\$331,014</b>	<b>\$3,825,327</b>

**FY 2004 Human Services Community Matching Grant Projects NOT Funded**

Interior AIDS Association	Balance of request not funded	\$10,544	\$0
National Senior Service Corps	Support transportation needs of senior citizens volunteering their time through Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP programs.	\$50,000	\$314,014
Legacy of the Tanana Valley	Provide Patient Care Services and support to terminally ill people and their loved ones. Provide Bereavement Services, education, information and training on issues relating to death and dying, grief and loss.	\$50,000	\$539,134
ACCA	Provide early intervention services to children, age birth to three, in social services custody who begin life with medical, biological or social risks and who experience developmental delays.	\$20,000	\$10,225
Bread Line, Inc.	Feed people through the Soup Kitchen, operate a day labor program, and supply donated clothing and other household goods to those in need.	\$40,000	\$115,138
Fairbanks Native Association	Provide a van service that picks up public inebriates and substance abusers, assesses their condition, and transports them to an appropriate facility.	\$50,000	\$168,294
Boys & Girls Club of the Tanana Valley	Provide an affordable summer day camp program where youth ages 8-12 participate in programs and activities designed to encourage academic and social development, positive choices, increased self esteem and competence.	\$50,000	\$70,275
Fairbanks Counseling & Adoption	Engage at-risk youth ages 14-18 in the positive physical and emotional challenges of wilderness adventure leading to the cessation of substance abuse, achievement of physical fitness and school/job retention culminating in an increased capacity for making a positive pro-social outlook on life.	\$45,000	\$64,439
<b>Total Projects Not Funded</b>		<b>\$352,044</b>	<b>\$1,287,480</b>

Total Project Request for FY 2004

\$683,058

\$5,112,807



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Etc  
 Committee on HB 375 Committee Name  
Bill / Subject Dated 3/4/04

Please re-instate funding for Alaska Legal Services Corp. (ALSC) that organization provides legal representation to indigent Alaskans who would otherwise be at the mercy of our judicial system. From my service on the ALSC Board of Directors, I have seen first-hand the dedication and commitment of ALSC staff, and the difference that their efforts can make, the lives of their clients. ALSC deserves the continued support of the Alaska Legislature, at least at the modest level of the current fiscal year (\$125K). I urge you to support ALSC's work on behalf of Alaska's indigent residents. Thank you!

SIGNED:



Cameron M. Leonard

Testifier

Board of Directors (Alternate) - Alaska Legal Services Corp.  
 Representing

1100 Solitude Way Fairbanks AK 99709  
 Address / Phone Number



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE FINANCE  
 Committee on SOA OPERATING BUDGET Dated 03.04.04  
Committee Name  
Bill / Subject

Honorable Representatives, Thank you for this opportunity to testify at public hearing on the state operating budget. I did my taxes this weekend. 4% of my income went to U of Alaska student groups, museum, public media, alumni scholarships, and the University of Alaska Foundation. In addition, I accrued 240 hours of community service, serving the same university assets. This adds a lot to our community, the university on the hill is a shining jewel in Fairbanks. Moreover, I am not ashamed to get my fellow alumni to contribute their time and money. THERE IS ONE THING I REGRET. MY SERVICE TO MY ALMA MATER DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO ITS OPERATING FUND. THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO FEEL THE SAME WAY. So, I am willing to set up a payment plan with the state of Alaska to support university education in Alaska. Let's work together to figure out how this payment plan works, either as an income tax, a program to draw on permanent fund earnings, and keep the dialogue from the Conference of Alaskans fresh, working toward a fiscal plan.

SIGNED:

MARIA MUELLER

Testifier

PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE UOFA

Representing

516 AUKLET PLACE FAIRBANKS AK. 99709-6653

Address / Phone Number 907.479.6780



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Committee  
 Committee on Budget Committee Name  
Bill / Subject Dated 3/4/04

Good Evening,

as the Administrative Director of a group that enables 5 different organizations to fulfill their mission of helping our fellow community members, (Head Start) (BCPE) (Literacy Council) (WIC) (INHC) any assistance in the way of funding our capital request that I recently e-mailed representatives Fale would be greatly appreciated, even if only a partial commitment. We can help the legislature stretch account funds in an effective manner. Thank you.

SIGNED:

Karl R. Green

Testifier

Fairbanks Community Development Foundation

Representing

841 Nine Mile Hill Rd. Fairbanks AK 99712

Address / Phone Number

907-488-0713



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee  
 Committee on Governor's Budget Committee Name  
Bill / Subject Dated 3/4/04

*Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in Alaska, and is responsible for one out of every five deaths in our state. Currently with the tobacco settle money and tobacco tax the state is taking in over \$70 million dollars. If the proposed tobacco tax goes into effect that figure will top \$100 million. The US Center for Disease Control has recommended that our state spend \$16 million on Tobacco Prevention. That is not happening yet in Alaska. We need to work harder!*

*I totally support the Administration Amendment to remedying last year's miss laid \$1,061,000 that went into the Medicaid fund by giving it back to Tobacco Prevention. I thank the commissioner for bringing this forward for you attention.*

*I urge you to maintain the Legislature's commitment to fund at least the 20% level for Tobacco Prevention. Your commitment to fund tobacco prevention, will brighten the future of our children, lower the cost the state has to spend to treat tobacco diseases, and improve the health of Alaskans.*

SIGNED:

*Diana M. Donnell*

Testifier

*FAIR AIR*

Representing

*P.O. Box 8189 Fairbanks AK 99708*

Address / Phone Number

*479-5421*

THANK YOU, MIKE SIGLER, PARENT OF 2 SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN IN  
JUNEAU

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE FROM A JUNEAU RESIDENT

Juneau Schools face increased class sizes

A looming budget gap is facing the Juneau School District that will severely affect the quality of education in our public schools. Unless the Legislature increases education funding for the next fiscal year, Juneau schools face a ten percent increase in class size, making classes with 28 students per elementary school teacher commonplace. Our children will be less likely to succeed in school with this increase and more children will fall through the cracks.

The City of Juneau and the State of Alaska both contribute funding for schools. Currently, the City's contribution is at the maximum legally allowed (the "cap").  
Local

teachers received a well-deserved raise this year as their salaries have not kept up with inflation. In contrast to the local support shown for schools, the State contribution to Alaska schools has risen little in the last decade. The Legislature and Governor claim they will "protect education funding", but this only means they will not cut from current funding levels. In the meantime, inflation has chipped away at education funding and the real value of student funding has decreased. We are holding our children's feet to the fire by setting education benchmarks, but we also need to provide the funding needed for each student to have a fair chance at meeting the new testing requirements.

The Governor and Legislature need to change the meaning of "protecting education" from "no education cuts" to "increase education funding". For Juneau schools, a \$400 increase in the per-student allocation would maintain classes at the existing size, rather than suffering an increase in class size. Increasing funding to match inflation also is critical. I request that education funding be increased to meet our children's basic public education needs. I am willing to pay for these increases through broad-based taxes.

Re: Support for Public Health Nursing Fund Restoration

Page 2 of 2

March 3, 2004

Services provided by Public Health Nurses also help to expand access to health care, in communities where there are no providers, or when other providers are unavailable to serve.

Among the most pressing and important service issues are increasing demands for disease control services. This fall, for example, public health nurses were on the front lines responding to cases of Viral Meningitis, Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Salmonella and a near-record flu season. Increased surveillance and continued follow up for the 2000-2001 tuberculosis outbreak continues to be needed. Achieving and sustaining immunization rates to protect our children, youth and adults at risk are all essential outcomes in the Department of Health and Social Services mission and measures.

Disease control efforts, as we have been reminded today, are central to delivering the State's constitutional mandate to protect and promote the public's health. It is also critical in assuring Alaska's viability as a tourist destination and place where businesses want to operate.

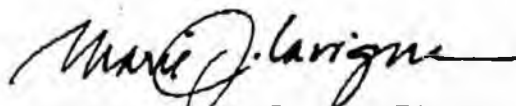
We are deeply concerned with the impact of budget cuts to Public Health Nursing. The dilemma of reduced funding and support for the Division of Public Health has resulted in a restructuring of Alaska's Public Health Nursing services, in an effort to limit the impact on services to communities. Plans to transition services to the private sector are ambitious at best and without comprehensive planning, will result in critical health services and – most importantly – the protection of the public's health to be threatened.

As the infrastructure for public health continues to erode, we express concern that the Division of Public Health Section of Nursing may be spreading itself too thin, which could result in a risk to the public's health and decreases in health outcomes for our infants, children, adults and elderly.

Ultimately, the legal responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the health of the population rests with government public health agencies.

We urge you to prioritize full restoration of funds to the Division of Public Health Section of Nursing along with support for a tobacco tax, among other sources of revenue being proposed.

Thank you.



Marie J. Lavigne, Executive Director  
Alaska Public Health Association



**ALPHA**

# ALASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

**Committed To Advancing Alaska's Public Health Since 1978**

Page 1 of 2

March 3, 2004

(H)FIN Hearings on CSHB375 Operating Budget

## **We Urge Your Support for Public Health Nursing Fund Restoration!**

Dear members of the House Finance Committee:

On behalf of the Alaska Public Health Association, representing over two hundred public health professionals from across Alaska who are deeply committed to developing sound public health policy and sustaining a strong public health system to improve the health of all Alaskans, we urge you to restore full funding to the Division of Public Health's Section of Nursing.

At a time when State Government takes pride in leading by focusing on Mission and Outcomes, we are deeply concerned that proposed cuts to the Division of Public Health Nursing Section will negatively impact health outcomes in our communities. At the very time we need to be strengthening the public health infrastructure to respond to increasing demands for disease prevention and control, these budget cuts risk further eroding the public health infrastructure.

Public health nursing is the front line public health workforce in Alaskan communities to deliver disease prevention and protection, health promotion, and health assessment services.

The public health infrastructure extends beyond the 23 public health centers to more than 250 communities through the travel of Itinerant Public Health Nurses. In four communities, services are contracted directly with Norton Sound Health Corporation, Maniilaq Health Corporation, North Slope Borough Health Department and Municipality of Anchorage Health Department.

The success of our public health nurses is the result of years of establishing and building trust in the communities they serve, working to identify those at risk, to monitor health status while supporting local communities in responding to health concerns. The skilled contribution for health assessment, planning and development by Public Health Nurses is highly valued.

Core services provided by public health nurses includes disease protection and prevention to prevent and control chronic and communicable diseases, including TB, Hepatitis A/B/C, HIV, STD, food-water-vector borne diseases, diabetes, obesity, and cardio-vascular disease.

In an era where terrorism, SARS, West Nile Virus, Small Pox, new and emerging diseases can threaten the public's health, Public Health Nursing has been at the core of the State of Alaska's response plans to assist in the development of statewide and regional disaster preparedness, training and exercises for bio-terrorism preparedness, and to respond at the community level to potential threats to the public's health.

P.O. Box 9-1825 Anchorage, AK 99509 907/332-1030 e-mail: [publichealth@alaska.net](mailto:publichealth@alaska.net) [www.alaskapublichealth.org](http://www.alaskapublichealth.org)

FAX: 907 - 465 - 6813

To HOUSE FINANCE

COM. MEMBERS to Amherst or Remov!

Am 75 and I have to know much more are have meals every mo. you going to cut?!

so I have to use Medicaid or I can't

manage as am on low fortunate enough to income and I have manage till have good health remove friends using it thanks to my jeans so Please don't cut it and meals.

ok! Also, we just got a new cook (parttime) at our center that gives us nutrition meals and there are many of my friends who depend on the meals on wheels for just one good hot meal a day! I can't make no get rid of my leg. No on 10, for nuts.

haven't been out of several wk. for over a year now just to get

Sincerely, a Sonox

Shirley Brown

PO Box 1814

Seward Ak.

-99664

3-3-04

To: House Finance Committee Members

FAX: 907-465-6813

3-2-04

Dear Sir;

I'm writing to let you know that we need personal care attendant for our seniors. We also need the meals on wheels, congregate meals and transportation for these seniors. I would like to keep the seniors in their own homes as the cost for a nursing home is high.

I also don't want to see our cook at our senior center lose her job. We have just had the kitchen remodelled to fit her needs.

We have alot of seniors who now get meals on wheels. We have alot of seniors who now eat at the center.

Thank you for reading this -

Kay Annand

P.O. Box 2267

Seward AK 99664

FROM : LEY OF KARL SCHLEICH

PHONE NO. : 907 373 0655

Mar. 03 2004 09:38AM P1

FAX MEMO

Please forward!

Corinne Schleich  
 5055 Fernwood Dr.  
 Wasilla, AK 99654  
 PH (907) 373-0623  
 FAX (907) 373-0655  
 arcticloon@gci.net

TO: All House Finance & Senate Finance  
 FAX: committee members  
 DATE: March 3, 2004  
 RE: Education Funding

I'm an 11 year old girl living in Wasilla. Most of this tax stuff is about losing great activities for kids, so here is one kid's point of view.

My favorite sports are basketball and soccer. If you can't find a way to pay for these then I won't be able to do them and my friends won't either. Nobody will get exercise and we won't be able to do science Olympiad, Music, and other things that help us grow. It would be better if everyone paid a little amount of money so those things can continue. My class has 30 kids in it and so it is harder to learn. My school and class is great except for that. Please think about everyone in this situation, including me and my friends! I know I don't handle the money in this house or in this state but if I did I would rather pay and have a really good school.

Sincerely,

Corinne Schleich

LUDWIG K. EVERETT  
SEWARD

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

I WANT TO ADVOCATE FOR STATE BUDGETS THAT WILL MAINTAIN THE SENIOR NETWORK OF SERVICES AND FOR MAINTAINING FUNDING FOR THESE SERVICES. HERE IN SEWARD ARE PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANTS AND SENIOR SUPPORT SERVICES, MEALS ON WHEELS, CONGREGATE MEALS, TRANSPORTATION AND EVERYONE THAT I KNOW THINKS THEY ARE IMPORTANT AND NEEDED. TO GET MORE REVENUE FOR THIS I THINK THE STATE OF ALASKA SHOULD USE THE MONEY FROM THE PERMANENT FUND.

Ludwig K. Everett

THANK YOU, MIKE SIGLER, PARENT OF 2 SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN IN  
JUNEAU

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE FROM A JUNEAU RESIDENT

Juneau Schools face increased class sizes

A looming budget gap is facing the Juneau School District that will severely affect the quality of education in our public schools. Unless the Legislature increases education funding for the next fiscal year, Juneau schools face a ten percent increase in class size, making classes with 28 students per elementary school teacher commonplace. Our children will be less likely to succeed in school with this increase and more children will fall through the cracks.

The City of Juneau and the State of Alaska both contribute funding for schools. Currently, the City's contribution is at the maximum legally allowed (the "cap"). Local teachers received a well-deserved raise this year as their salaries have not kept up with inflation. In contrast to the local support shown for schools, the State contribution to Alaska schools has raised little in the last decade. The Legislature and Governor claim they will protect education funding, but this only means they will not cut from current funding levels. In the meantime, inflation has chipped away at education funding and the real value of student funding has decreased. We are holding our children feet to the fire by setting education benchmarks, but we also need to provide the funding needed for each student to have a fair chance at meeting the new testing requirements.

The Governor and Legislature need to change the meaning of "protecting education" from no education cuts to increase education funding. For Juneau schools, a \$400 increase in the per-student allocation would maintain classes at the existing size, rather than suffering an increase in class size. Increasing funding to match inflation also is critical. I request that education funding be increased to meet our children's basic public education needs. I am willing to pay for these increases through broad-based taxes.

Mike Sigler

Harborview Elementary School Parent

State of Alaska  
Representative John Harris  
House Finance Chair

March 5, 2004  
Dear Mr. Harris

As a family member who has seen the devastation of the disease of addiction, I am writing as a concerned Alaskan about the proposed \$600,000 cut to Alcohol and drug treatment programs. I am asking that this money NOT BE CUT and that alcohol and drug treatment be FULLY FUNDED.

Some things are very clear to me Mr. Harris. Alcoholism is a disease. We have more than enough medical evidence to prove this. It is fundamentally a brain disease. Once a person becomes addicted, only medical treatment will work. Unfortunately this is not medical treatment where you can give a person a pill and the disease goes away. The addicted person has to learn a new way of living. This takes time.

Alaska is #1 in the country in alcoholism. Our suicide rate, which is often connected with drug or alcohol use is through the roof this year. We cannot take any more cuts. Many Alaskans do not have health benefits and do not qualify for Medicaid. They will need treatment and will not be able to afford it. The result is that they will take up more jail beds and you cannot treat a medical condition with a prison term. Emergency rooms will become overrun with people in need of detoxification services which ends up costing the state and our citizens thousands while placing undue burdens on emergency services.

There is talk of cutting the Alcohol Safety Action program. *This must continue to be funded* as accountability is a part of the treatment of the illness of addiction. If left on their own most addicts will not comply with seeking treatment without a mitigating party to answer to. I would suggest that this program be funded as a Misdemeanor Services program within the Alaska court system, or revert to a Department of Public Safety program. It is our opinion that either of these moves would preserve an important monitoring service and could still place the responsibility of the crime back where it belongs, on the person who committed the crime. To do otherwise is inconsistent with your core service goals to

- Reduce the number of Alaskans afflicted with alcoholism and substance abuse
- AND
- Preventing and mitigating threats to public health.

Child abuse and neglect often occurs with the presence of alcohol and drug abuse. You can expect our children to be more at risk if you block access to treatment by cutting funding. The statistics speak for themselves. To cut funding for treatment would essentially mean doing what is inconsistent with your core service goal of:

- Protect children from abuse and neglect.

Overall, your cuts would appear to go against your Mission:  
*To promote and protect the health and well being of Alaskans*

I cannot stress enough that LIVES depend on treatment. People die from this affliction and your cuts may mean life or death for someone. I am again asking that the proposed \$600,000 cut to Alcohol and drug treatment programs be voted against. I am asking that this money NOT BE CUT and that alcohol and drug treatment be FULLY FUNDED. Alaskan lives depend on it.

Sincerely,  
  
David McCormick  
P.O. Box 34045  
Juneau, AK. 99803  
907-364-3830

**Jan Mesdag**

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House Finance Committee:

I have heard that there is the potential of residential treatment for substance dependence being cut. Please, Please reconsider plans to cut residential treatment. Addiction is a very serious problem in our state. Once addiction has progressed, it is very difficult to stop if not almost impossible to stop without treatment. Residential treatment focusses on those seriously ill residents in our state who can not make it without the structure of a residential facility.

Many in this population do not have Medicaid or insurance. They need and want treatment but can not afford it. If they can not be treated, they will still take up emergency rooms or take up jail beds. Families often end up on Public Assistance because of their financial problems. Cost to the state remains because the state will pay through another less desirable route. It seems more cost effective if people are treated for addiction. I have been involved in the field for many years and I have seen many whose lives are better and improved because of treatment.

Jan Mesdag

John Harris  
House Finance Chair  
465-3799

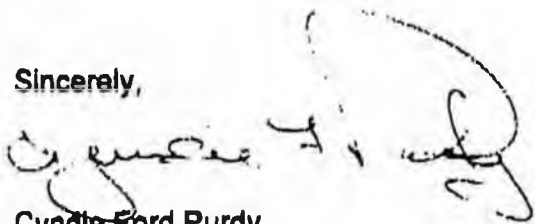
March 5, 2004

Representative John Harris  
House Finance Chair

Fax 465.3799

As a taxpayer, I am concerned that you are considering cutting funding for residential treatment for people with alcohol and/or other drug dependence. If the state does not support residential and inpatient treatment for people with drugs and alcohol dependence, only the wealthy will be able to afford treatment. Those without insurance or other means of payment for treatment will flood our emergency rooms and correction centers. 85 - 95% of all child abuse is related to alcohol and/or other drugs, and without intervention the danger to our most vulnerable citizens will increase dramatically. The impact and cost of that damage is incalculable and those who survive will be angry, bitter, and antisocial individuals who will follow the same path and the cycle repeats over and over again. If anything, you should be considering increasing the funding for more residential treatment centers capable of providing wrap-around services to insure an increase in positive outcomes. **Please**, do not reduce funding for residential drug and/or alcohol treatment centers. If you do, we will all suffer the serious consequences of your mistake for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Cyndie Ford Purdy  
9475 Eagle St.  
Juneau, AK 99801  
907.789.5523

Date: March 5, 2004

To: House Finance Chair, Representative John Hartz 465-3799

From: Samantha Abernathy 

Re: proposed \$600,000 cut to Residential Alcohol/drug treatment

I am writing to support the continence of monies for alcohol and drug treatment in the state of Alaska. Alaska had the highest rate of injury death in the United States during 1988-1992. Higher rates occurred in rural Alaska, where the majority of injury deaths were alcohol-related and among Alaska Natives. In Alaska, the prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder is higher than the national average.

I believe it is our duty as a state to provide alcohol and drug treatment services to Alaska Natives and all peoples of Alaska, as the projected figures of death will only increase. Additionally, the cost of medical care and incarceration will not offset the monies saved by not providing alcohol and drug treatment.

Thank you.

To Representative John Harris:

I am a victim of domestic violence and I am also a concerned parent. I think the proposed cut in our Alcohol/Drug treatment plan would not only effect my family but thousands of others too. This service is an important part of recovery for a large percent of our residents. It doesn't just effect the offender it effects the innocent people involved. Please consider the innocent and help us by helping the recovery of chemical abusers before the innocent die. Thank you Jodi Miracle.

To the members of the House Budget Finance Committee:

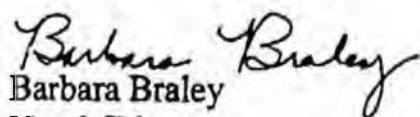
I am very concerned that the grants for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is down \$648,000 which will impact 21 programs statewide. This would be a travesty and seriously endanger the safety of women and children in Alaska.

As the Youth Educator at Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living, I provide classes and presentations on the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault for students ranging from pre-school through college. Last month alone I taught classes to over 300 teenagers. I also train teachers and agency workers on the effects of domestic violence on children and how to work with children from violent homes. I provide parenting classes and attend health fairs to let people know of our services and provide information as needed by the public. I believe that through the process of education we can help prevent future generations from experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault.

The proposed cuts would eliminate this service to the community. My part-time position would certainly disappear, as would the shelter's Children Program that provides advocacy and support groups for children living at the shelter as well as non-residents. If we want to end the inter-generational continuance of domestic violence and sexual assault, we need to educate the community and help the children learn how to have healthy relationships and not grow up to become victims or abusers.

I'm asking that the \$648,000 be restored to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. My concern is not just for the youth education and child advocacy positions that will be lost, but for the future safety of women and children in Alaska. As a way to provide the revenue for these important programs, I would be happy to pay a state income tax. I believe that's the only fair way to pay for services needed by our state.

Sincerely,



Barbara Braley  
Youth Educator

Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living

4397 Julcp Street  
Juneau AK 99801

March 5, 2004

House Finance Committee  
Alaska State Legislature

RE: Budget cuts to Alaska Marine Highway System

Southeast Alaska geography is coastal and island, a geography quite unlike the rest of the United States. In such an area, where human habitation is confined to narrow strips of coastline and islands, seaborne transportation is the basic transportation infrastructure within the area, as well as an important link to areas outside. Ferry transportation is relatively low cost, has a low impact on the environment, and continues to operate in weather conditions when the air alternative cannot.

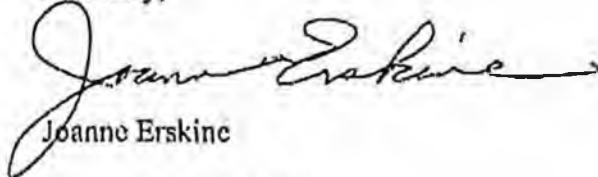
The call for improved ferry service has been clearly made. The need for improved ferry transportation among Southeast communities is obvious and indisputable: service that is faster, more frequent, more convenient, and more reliable. Better ferry links are necessary to support commerce and society; without them a number of smaller communities will wither.

The budget proposal to cut ten percent from Marine Highways maintenance and operations is a move in the wrong direction entirely, curtailing and degrading service. This is not a cut of fat, it is a cut from the flesh and bone of vital transportation infrastructure. It is self-destructive, and makes no sense. Why buy new ferries, if you lack the means to operate them together with the rest of the existing system?

Roads cannot connect an island and coastal environment. The main reason for building them is federal highway money. Our congressional delegation should devote more effort to obtaining more liberal provisions for using such money for transport adapted to the peculiar needs of Southeast, the Alaska Marine Highway System.

I strongly oppose any budget cut for Marine Highways.

Sincerely,



Joanne Erskine

cc: Sen. Kim Elton  
Rep. Bruce Weyhrauch

**RESOURCE CENTER FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN**

1401 KELLUM STREET

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701

PHONE (907) 456-2366 FAX (907) 451-8125

rcpc@rcpcfairbanks.org

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Via fax: 465-6813

March 5, 2004

Dear House Finance Committee members:

It has come to my attention that the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault budget has been cut and is down by \$648,000 from the original amount of \$1.5 million. These cuts will severely impact these much needed services to those caught in the cycle of family violence.

The impacts to the Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living are severe and long lasting:

- Loss of d.v. education in our schools
- Limiting the number of clients who may reside each night in the shelter
- Cutting back on legal advocacy resources
- Discontinuing services offered to children of family violence

Your restoration of the \$850,000 will go along way to keeping these families safe and helping to teach kids about the risk and protective factors in family violence. As the director of the Resource Center for Parents and Families, along with the staff we directly see the results of family violence and how it affects all of us in this community.

I urge you to restore the funds to the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault budget and I strongly support use of an income tax or the permanent fund to provide these valuable services to Alaskan families.

Warm Regards, \_\_\_\_\_

Coleen Turner  
Executive Director

March 4, 2003

*From:*

Barbara Bird via email to the Sitka LIO office:

Please forward my request to not cut any more senior citizen benefits. We've been whittled to the bone. Also, it would be nice if Gov. Murkowski would rein in his own extravagant expenditures!!

Sincerely, Barbara Bird, 1501 Edgumbe Drive, Sitka, AK 99835

hpbobby@ptialaska.net

3-5-04

House Finance Budget Hearing

HB 377: FY 05

Proposed budget cut to the State Ferry System.

The Ferry System needs adequate funding. Our Marine Highway System has too many "pot-holes" at the present time.

The communities in South East Alaska suffer from poor scheduling because of inadequate funds.

If ferries came North and South more often, we'd be able to enjoy our great ferry system and travel more often. It is vital to our needs.

Doris G. Smith

Doris G. Smith

3407 Halibut Point Rd.

Sitka, AK 99835

March 5, 2004

To the Finance Committee:

My understanding is one of the items to be discussed in budget hearing is a considerable cut to the Alaska State Ferry System which would amount to a 10% reduction in service to Southeast communities.

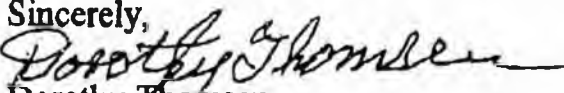
Our service has already been reduced considerably. This is important means transportation among the villages and cities. The ferries make it through in all kinds of weather when planes aren't able to fly.

Future plans for roads (God help us) will be years in the making, in the mean time we need to keep the ferries in operating conditions.

Questions I have are the highways and roads taking a cut? After all this is our highway.

Times are hard for the state as well as for the citizens. Please give consideration for keeping the ferry schedule at the present schedule. We in Southeast don't ask for much and seem to be a stepchild of the state.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Thomsen  
3505 Halibut Point Road  
Sitka, Alaska 99835



## Fairbanks North Star Borough

Health & Social Services  
Commission

520 Fifth Ave. PO Box 71267 Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267 (907) 459-1474 FAX (907) 459-1280

To: House Finance Committee

From: Carrie Dershin, Chair, Health and Social Services Commission CD

Date: March 5, 2004

Subject: Human Services Community Matching Grant

On behalf of the Health and Social Services Commission, I would like to thank you for reinstating the Community Matching Grant in the amount of \$1,000,000. As a follow up to my testimony from yesterday evening, I am pleased to provide you with a brief report on the community impact of the Human Services Community Matching Grant. This will further illustrate the need to continue this vital grant program.

It is my hope that you are already well aware of the impact that these funds have on the delivery of *essential human services* within our community. These range from hot meals and emergency food boxes to attainable health care to youth leadership and mentoring. The services that are provided by our local non-profits are non-duplicative, efficient and cost-effective.

In FY03, state funds of \$312,083 combined with the Borough allocation of \$184,291 leveraged a total community value of \$4,946,767 when other sources of funds and the value of in-kind donations are considered. In short, these funds provided a value to the community *fourteen times* that of the actual grant dollars allocated.

The need to preserve this grant is great. The impact that these funds have in our community is significant. The health and care of our community is critical to the overall growth and development of our future. Unfortunately the future of the Community Matching Grant is at risk. Since FY02, state funding for the Community Matching Grant has decreased 42%. With the Mat-Su Borough now eligible for the funding as well, this reduces the amount coming into our community even further. Rather than the combined total of \$331,014 coming to agencies as in FY04, we could see approximately only \$267,000. This roughly translates into not seven, but only five local agencies that could receive this grant. This is down from the eleven agencies of two years ago.

An additional \$236,000 allocated to the proposed \$1,000,000 would keep us at the same funding level of FY04. The need for services is going to continue to increase. Our safety net which has been held together by our local non-profits is continuing to be stretched and could lose its strength without the necessary fiscal support from our local community and our state. The Human Services Community Matching Grant is an *exceptionally cost-effective* use of public dollars that exemplifies the deeply rooted philosophy of neighbors helping neighbors. Thank you for the valuable work that you do and for your continued and future support keeping our communities healthy and well.

**Department of Labor and Workforce  
Development**  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
Governor's Committee on Employment & Rehabilitation  
Of People with Disabilities

**FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR**

801 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
V/TTY: (907) 465-2814  
FAX: (907) 465-2856

March 6, 2004

House Finance Committee

Dear Members of the Committee:

I would like to address the proposed cuts to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Governor Murkowski's proposed cut of \$138,000 to the Administration sections of VR and the Division's decision to close the Bethel office would not significantly impact services to consumers. However the additional \$126,000 proposed by the Committee would have a magnifying and devastating affect on persons receiving services. Because these are matching funds an equal reduction in federal funds would occur totaling \$252,000. These cuts would be in direct client services and would trigger an Order of Selection process in the State of Alaska. This means that some clients would be dropped and others would not receive services at all. Those not served would find it even more difficult to get off Social Security and Medicaid. They would probably stay on those programs. The order of selection probably would also result in more sign ups to SS resulting in more individuals on Medicaid. In the spirit of producing more jobs and putting our citizens to work this is counter productive.

As in the Independent Living programs these dollars help to get people off Medicaid and Social Security. Without the opportunity for training and chance to improve, these individuals would continue stay on these non-productive programs. These are dollars well spent.

If these cuts go through the Sitka and Kodiak offices are slated for closure. Sitka was being served out of the Juneau office for almost a year and it proved not to work. The work load in Juneau had increased leaving Sitka almost unserved, not to mention that all clients in Angoon, Kake, Petersburg, Wrangell would be underserved or dropped.

Please find the funds so as not to eliminate the \$126,000 in client services to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Thank you.

  
Jerry Kainuainen  
GCERPD Member

**Sharon John**

---

**From:** "Sharon John" <shjohn@gcl.net>  
**To:** <Sitka\_Lio@legis.state.ak.us>  
**Cc:** "Vicki Keele" <Vicki\_Keele@labor.state.ak.us>; "Lisa April" <lisa\_april@labor.state.ak.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 05, 2004 5:06 PM  
**Subject:** Sitka DVR

I would like to respond to the proposed closure of the Sitka DVR office due to stated budget reduction.

In 2002 as I was leaving my shift at the Pioneer's Home here in Sitka, I was struck by a hit and run driver and lay unconscious in the street for approximately 15-20 minutes before taken to the hospital. I now suffer from Traumatic Brain Injury with balance problems, headaches, memory deficits, cognitive function deficit, tinnitus, impaired comprehension with difficulty in new or abstract thoughts, and right eye sluggishness, to name some problems associated with my injury. Having been in the nursing field 40 years, this was the only work I knew when I was suddenly removed from my vocation. After two years of being unable to work, I linked up with the Sitka DVR and right away was able to begin testing to ascertain what the potential for my future was, and now have pending appointments with other entities to hopefully assist me in becoming more productive as time goes on.

Because my ability to drive is likely going to be fairly short lived, it's a real blessing to have office close by for visits. I would not like to think about having to travel great distances for appointments, and, due to very poor ferry service in Sitka, the very people DVR is committed to helping, would experience a 'double whammy'—becoming even more victimized by the lack of facilities in town, poor transportation services AND getting thrown into unfamiliar surroundings in order to be given an appointment with DVR offices elsewhere.

I sincerely hope this office will remain open for the good of this unique community... it is needed!

Sincerely,

Sharon John

3/6/04

(emailed 3/5/04)

Dear Governor Murkowski:

I was extremely distressed to hear of plans to cut Alaska's Alcohol Safety Action Program budget. Saving money is always good, but this is not the way to do it. ASAP programs are designed on several levels to *save* money and there is apparent misunderstanding about what the ASAP function actually is.

Alcohol and other drugs are involved in almost three-fourths of all court cases in Alaska. What ASAPs do is to offer an alternative to regular sentencing protocols for people whose offenses involve drugs and alcohol. These people are given the choice of receiving an ASAP screening and then complying with treatment or education recommendations indicated by this screening. In this way ASAPs provide early interventions to catch drinking and drugging behaviors before they become serious health risks to clients and create serious costs to society.

In addition, ASAPs serve as a specialized probation function to monitor these clients for compliance. When ASAPs take over alcohol- and other drug-related cases, court dockets become less clogged and probation caseloads are lightened. The numbers are considerable - 8,500 DUI offenders are monitored by ASAP programs each year. ASAPs insure increased compliance as well. When funding for an ASAP-affiliate program in Kenai, Alaska, was cut last year, absenteeism jumped 80 percent in two months.

It seems ironic to me that on the first day of this year's legislative session, a drunk driver ran into your fence before midday. It is doubtful that the driver did this deliberately. People do not set out to break the law by drinking and driving; rather, they are either young and foolish and in need of education, or they are in the grips of a disease that clouds their judgment. The fence incident is a dramatic indication of how badly we need to fund more effective alcohol and other drug prevention, intervention and treatment programs. The last thing Alaska needs is to pull the plug on this funding.

Please do not withdraw funding from our ASAPs.

Sincerely,



Barbara Blackman  
6590 Glacier Highway #151  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 780-6242  
[bblackmn@ptialaska.net](mailto:bblackmn@ptialaska.net)

F. Bill Adams CAN'T understand why  
they shutting down voice Rehab when  
there is so many people in the need  
for training. They helped me go through  
computer school and ~~and~~ <sup>am</sup> looking forward  
to going again. With out voice Rehab I  
would have gotten nowhere. Now  
I've got something to look forward to  
Please don't take it away.

Bill Larkin  
PO Box 8575  
Kodiak, AK 99615

Hi my name is Dawn Jurado

I was referred to Voc Rehab by my probation officer and with their help I have been able to get my life on track.

Voc Rehab has:

- Helped me stay alcohol free
- Encouraged me to work on my basic skills
- Helped me build confidence in myself and positive work ethics
- Assisted me in getting a job and face reality in the work place

Without Voc Rehab I would probably have continued to drink and would likely be in jail today. Because of VR I am off probation, my self-esteem is much higher and I have a good job with benefits.

If funding for all of the social service agencies gets cut people are going to go crazy and probably get into more trouble because there will be no help available -- people's lives are at stake.

Everyone needs someone to believe in them!

*Dawn T. Jurado*

Voc Rehab has helped me get a job and get training in computers. When my eyesight got to the point I could no longer see well enough to work they helped me complete the paperwork for my SSDI. They helped me with medical appointments that required travel to Anchorage.

Because of Voc Rehab I am able to have my own apartment and live independently, providing me with the magnification devices I needed.

Pat Semenski  
3-6-04



# Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on 113375-Operating Exp dated 3-6-04  
bill/subject

VOC. MEMBERS, NEEDED ME ROUND THE  
 TABLE AND GET BACK INTO THE WORKFORCE.  
 IT APPEARS TO ME THAT THE  
 PROPOSED CHANGES WILL HINDER  
 THOSE THAT ARE THE MOST  
LIKELY TO GET BACK ~~IN~~ IN-  
 TO THE WORKFORCE, FROM DOING SO,  
 I'M IN FAVOR OF AN INCOME  
 TAX TO AVOID SUCH MEASURES

Signed: [Signature]  
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address  
3340 PRECINCTA LN.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Budget - House Finance  
 committee name  
 committee on HB 375 - Operating Bud dated 3-6-04  
 bill/subject

Cutting funding to Kodiak's Vocational Rehab. Office is a bad idea! We need this vital resource here. I am very fortunate to be a beneficiary of the V.R. program offered here, and it has been critical to my success as a viable member of this community. Alaska's rural communities only have the state to rely on for these services and if they are underfunded or closed a good many of us will be unable to get the help we need.

Alaska ranks third from the bottom, number 48, as a state with funds available to help V.R. clients as it stands right now, so why make it worse!

Signed: John Ogan  
 Testifier  
self  
 Representing (Optional)  
12906 Nach Dr. Kodiak AK 99615  
 Address  
907-487-2779



# Alaska State Legislature

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

committed on HB 375 - operating budget dated 3-6-04  
bill/subject

DVR. HAS BEEN VERY helpful to me. -  
 I have PARKINSON'S DISEASE -  
 They have paid for classes at the college  
 for me to be able to get a better job -  
 They have helped to get a job  
 DVR HELPED by paying my way to a  
 neurologist expert in my condition  
 Their help has given me hope when all  
 looked so grim for my life & future -  
 (LDS) DVR is going to close the  
 door of hope off for those of us who  
 struggle thru each day as it is, and  
 who hope to be productive members of  
 our community in spite of our handicaps -

Signed: Rete Holm PO Box 271 Kodiak

Testifier

Self

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 271 Kodiak, AK 99615

Address

907-486-5118



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance - House  
committee name  
committed on operating funds, dated March 6, 2004.  
bill/subject

Keeping seniors out of costly nursing homes + able to live at home independently with the assistance of Home + Community Based waivers is a cost efficient way to do business + pay for needed services. I support keeping these vital services that are available to the most vulnerable + poorest seniors. I support paying an income tax, using the permanent dividend fund earnings + keeping Alaska's infrastructure + services in place. Once these services are gone, we will not get them back. I also support a long range fiscal plan from state so agencies + those receiving services can plan + count on staying here.

Signed: Pat Dransm

Testifier

Senior Citizens of Kodiak, Inc.

Representing (Optional)

Box 3888 Kodiak, AK 99615

Address

907-486-3641

Hello, my name is JOHN HANGSTEFER.

Having a local vocational rehab office means a lot to me.

Chris was able to get me employment, orthotics and counselling services including social security. "She's my secretary helping me through the process." Without Chris, I wouldn't have gotten very far.

John Hangstefer

Education & Prevention  
 Residential & Out-Patient Treatment  
 Adolescent Services  
 Alcohol & Drug Information School  
 Referrals & Assessments  
 Employee Assistance Programs



Toll Free : (800)406-3535  
 Phone: (907)486-3535  
 Fax: (907)486-7689  
 115 Mill Bay Road  
 Kodiak, Alaska 99015  
 Email: safeharbor@gci.net

*"Where The Healing Begins"*

March 05, 2004

Re: Vocational Rehabilitation Support

To Whom It May Concern:

A cut in funding to Kodiak's Vocational Rehabilitation would be a tremendous blow to the services Kodiak Council on Alcoholism provides as the majority of our clients are in need of these services to get their lives back on track as they have been outside the mainstream of society. As the Executive Director of Safe Harbor I was once one of these people and the services that Vocational Rehabilitation provided me allowed me to get my degree and become a productive member of society as opposed to a burden. If these services are pulled the State will still pay the cost though it will be in the area of public safety and the Department of Corrections.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me at the above number. Thank you.

D. Scott Smith, MAPS  
 Executive Director  
 Safe Harbor Treatment Facility



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee  
committee name  
 committee on operating budget, dated March 6, 2004.  
bill/subject

My name is Mary Turfird and I am 82 years old, continuing to live independently in my own apartment, though I have macular degeneration, and I participate in activities that keep my mind sharp - watercolor painting and singing each week with the Golden Tots. I am able to live alone only with assistance of the Medicaid waiver program. Through this program I receive home-delivered meals, transportation to and from doctors' appointments, home health & know other services are available when I get to the point of needing them. I have family in town, but they are often away on business. I know my family realizes the kind of care I receive & that makes them comfortable. I am not just for advocating for programs, but also for the legislature to adopt a fiscal plan.

Signed: Mary Turfird  
Testifier

myself  
Representing (Optional)

914 Upper Mid Bay Road #111  
Address

480-8452  
Phone No.

I have received services from both Vocational Rehabilitation and Safe Harbor.

These agencies have helped me know myself better and have given me another chance at life.

I have been sober for 13 months. During that time I have learned to live independently and have completed training as an emergency trauma technician. I am waiting for my results of the Emergency Medical Technician course I just completed.

Richard McDaniel

Public Comment  
House Finance Committee  
Saturday, March 06, 2004  
. Donald B. Roberts Jr.

Re: HB 375 Operating Budget / Loans Funds;  
HB - 377 Mental Health Budget

Mr Chairman my name is Don Roberts Jr. I live at 264 Lilly Drive in Kodiak.  
Thank you for this opportunity.

I speak in favor of Vocational Rehabilitation component of the budget and the  
Mental Health Budget. The long term economic and social consequences of not  
funding these is far greater than any savings that might be had.

In addition, many people by virtue of their disability may not be able to participate  
in these proceedings, it would not be reasonable to interpret their silence as lack of  
concern.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald B. Roberts Jr.", is written over a horizontal dashed line. The signature is fluid and cursive, extending across the width of the page.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance  
 committee name  
 committee on HB 375 Operating Budget dated 03-06-04  
 bill/subject

As a person with a disability having a local Vocational Rehabilitation office is a benefit to me personally. As a participant in the Resred Self-Employment program, the staff of the local Vocational Rehabilitation Office have provided a tremendous amount of support and resources to assist in my self-employment goal.

*Herman Squartsoff*

Signed: Herman Squartsoff  
 Testifier  
S. J. P.  
 Representing (Optional)  
170 Box 189  
 Address  
907-



# Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on HB375-Operating Budget, dated March 6, 2004  
bill/subject

I am writing to show my support for the Vocational Rehabilitation services here in Kodiak. I have achieved many positive things in my life--graduating with honors from college, obtaining my teaching certificate, seeking a masters degree in Early Childhood Special Education, and maintaining a loving, supportive, stable family. I have a lot to contribute to the State of Alaska. I also suffer from disabling anxiety, depression and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. These are frustrating diseases not well understood or tolerated by most people. Daily life is a challenge and I often feel frustrated and hopeless, yet I know it doesn't have to be this way forever. I am tough and will prevail with continued support. When I feel useless, Chris McKay here at the VR office in Kodiak is here to help me feel and be useful. She knows me and my problems--I am a real person to her, not just another case. Having an office in Kodiak means that I have support here when and where I need it. I fear that I will become just another case and my quality of life will decrease if services are cut here in Kodiak. It would be impossible for me to fly to Anchorage for services as it is too expensive. Services provided by phone or through infrequent visits would seriously impact many lives here. Living life with a disability is frustrating and challenging, please don't make it harder by cutting services. Consider instead implementing an income tax and tapping into the permanent fund--there are solutions out there.

Signed: Kristen Parman  
Testifier

S/f

Representing (Optional)

PO BOX 174 KODIAK AK 99615

Address

486-3495



# Alaska State Legislature

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

committed on HB 375 Operating Budget, dated 03-06-04  
bill/subject

I am the caregiver of a person who is handicapped. I have seen how DVR has helped my disabled friend by providing counseling services, paid for classes at the college, helped with traveling expenses to a clinic and a Neurologist expert outside of ALASKA, all of which greatly improved the quality of life of the person in my case. Those services have given him hope when there was no hope otherwise.

I also hear that personal care attendant services are to be cut. What are the disabled people, my friend included, going to do? The prospects of no the help given to him by personal care attendant services - Is he going to be left to die? or put in a nursing home? The proposed cuts are appalling, I am against them!

Signed: Olga N. Kater-Sherba (personal care attendant)

Testifier

D. Sherba

Peter Holm

Representing (Optional)

Address

1:00 PM 6th  
For the Hearing, 7:00 PM on March 4th, 2004

Gentlemen:

I am a 68-year resident of Kodiak and have a deep human investment here. As a physician I have always been concerned about the people in my community. I served on a number of State Boards as well as the Borough Assembly. More important, I was a founder of a number of non-government volunteer organizations (NGO's) that were formed to meet perceived needs of our people.

As is the case in all developing communities, Kodiak grew and the task of each NGO grew with it, to the point that volunteers either burned out or "went public" by forming non-profit corporations. Over the course of fifty years, most "went public" obtained funds, and were able to hire a director. There are, perhaps, a dozen such organizations and they have filled just about every perceived need in our community. Because volunteers were still involved, they are much more efficient than would be the same services, were they to be provided by the government.

I have been very proud of Kodiak and its sensitivity to the needs of its people. No one has to sleep outside. No one has to go hungry. There is protected housing and counselling for the abused and the abusers. There is treatment available for mental illness and addiction. There are several effective organizations for youth.

Because the State has not provided cost-of-living increase to any of the NGO's over the last ten years, they have been mercilessly "squeezed" for finances. Now, gentlemen, a number of them are severely compromised--Kodiak Youth Services is closing and others are on the verge--because of the austere budget and the flagrant disregard of the most important community enterprise--*caring for people*. You pretend that this is financially necessary when the undivided profits of the permanent fund contain millions of dollars intended to support State services when the need arises.

*The need has arisen, and, in some cases passed, thanks to you. You should do something about it!*



Dr. Bob Johnson

### THE PERMANENT FUND AND THE STATE

In 1967, when the State Legislature instituted the Permanent Fund, we all thought it was a wonderful idea. Many of us thought that this would be our salvation when, or if, the State ever ran into trouble. Since then, due to excellent management and good times, it has grown considerably.

Prior to my three-year stint on the Borough Assembly, 1996-98, I had never been much interested in the management of State finances. During my tenure on the Assembly, I discovered that the State had been squeezing the borough budget for ten years by disregarding the increased cost of living. I learned, also, that there was no long range financial plan. Thus I was pleased to see a proposal by the Alaska Municipal League for a long range plan to use unreserved Permanent Fund income and an income tax that would have provided consistent funding to maintain State services over time.

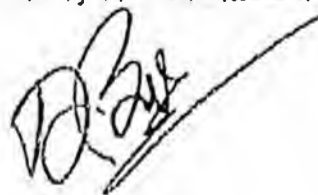
The League plan was rejected by the legislature and, instead, they have dipped into the Constitutional Budget Reserve, our emergency fund, to cover budget deficits, still reducing funding for basic State programs and local communities.

Reviewing the history of the fund, since its inception, I find the legislature has had the wisdom to allocate a portion of the unreserved funds back into the fund to cover for inflation, and has paid dividends to each of us as well. What was left could have been used for anything; the legislature decided—it was not part of the principal and not subject to the need of approval by ballot. I found that, since inception, \$7,394,000,000 had been rebudgeted back into the principal of the Fund. This year, that figure amounted to \$345,000,000, probably enough to have covered the budget deficit.

The time has come to re-think this matter. The Permanent Fund has reached a point where it will continue to earn enough to provide for inflation and dividends and increase the principal. The unreserved income can be used to beef up faltering State services: maintenance of State buildings, Fish & Game, Highways, Schools, Law Enforcement, etc. If additional funds are needed they should be supplied by an income tax, the most equitable tax, since it takes from those in proportion to what they earn and it taxes the income of the enterprising soul who comes from elsewhere. The dividend could very likely pay the tax for those in the lower income brackets.

A word about Sales Tax. This is the one resource available to local communities to provide local funding for their programs. If Anchorage and Fairbanks need additional income, they may institute their own Sales Tax and not push a State tax that compromises most of the smaller communities.

In summary, gentlemen, it is high time to adopt a long range financial plan. The best plan is to utilize the unreserved earnings of the permanent fund and an income tax, and leave the constitutional budget reserve alone. By all means, do not institute a statewide sales tax!



Good Afternoon...

My Name is Aharon Dolph. I am 22 Years Old.

I am a V.R. Client.

Local V.R. support is important to me because my telephone skills for making long distance calls are li mi ted. //

V.R. has made a big difference in my life.

I got support for a stuttering problem when speech ther a py was not found anywhere else in Kodiak. //

I also have support for my job to improve my skills at work. //

This has been possible with the local support system in Kodiak.

Local V.R. resources help to make my life better.

Thank you.

Aharon Dolph

Re: Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitation  
Budget cuts

From: Danielle Reed Danielly Reed

I would like to emphasize how much the DOR office is needed ~~is~~ in Sitka. I have used these services off & on since 2000, & have found them very useful. I am not able to go out & get a job by myself, & I don't think I'd be able to work without them. They have provided me with very useful & important vocational testing, which led to a seasonal job with Fish & Game. They are now helping me with benefits counseling. I can't emphasize enough how much people like me need to have an office here in Sitka. It helps me to be able to drop by when I need something & to do interviews with DOR personnel face-to-face. I will continue to use DOR services in the future & will find it very upsetting & stressful if I have to deal with this over the phone with some office I can't visit when I need to. Sitka residents like me need this office.

3-0604

To: Alaska House Finance Committee

My name is Teresa Leighton. I reside in Sitka and have been an Alaskan ~~for~~ resident since 1954. My daughter, Caitlin Leighton was born in 1983 and is listed in the state of Alaska as a multi-handicapped person. Throughout her 20 years in Alaska... she has received many services thru the state. All of these have been necessary and very helpful to us as a family and especially to Caitlin. She is 20 years old now and would, to one day be able to support herself with a job and live independtly. She requires the assistance of our local vocational office - she is currently using their services to look for a job. I strongly urge you to not reduce any funding that would close ~~down~~ down our local office. Thank-you

Teresa Leighton



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the Budget & Finance  
COMMITTEE NAME  
 committee on AB 375, dated 3/6/04  
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

I am a 26 year resident of Alaska, mother of 3, District-Supervisor for Juvenile Probation, Division of Juvenile Justice and past Director of the Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic (10 yrs). Please do not even consider rejecting these Title X funds for the DHS Operating Budget. These funds are vital for hundreds of women and in turn hundreds, thousands of their family members. If these funds are lost, it is a loss to your constituents, to their children. The loss also increases the burden on the State - will increase undiagnosed diseases, unplanned pregnancies - thereby requiring Medicaid.

We are not all privileged enough to have medical insurance - these funds provide basic medical care in conjunction - with other agencies and private providers. These are preventative services, providing access to basic care - services that should be available to all women + their families.

I urge you to reinstate these Federal Title X monies - it is absolutely ridiculous to not accept these funds. They are vital and they cost this state nothing.

Signed:

K. M. Smith

TESTIFIER

Self

REPRESENTING

PO Box 3235 - Homer AK 99603

ADDRESS

PHONE NO.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the House Finance Committee  
COMMITTEE NAME  
 committee on HB 375, dated 3-6-04  
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

I would like to offer my support of re-instating the Fed Title X funding into the Operating Budget. These Family Planning services offered by Kachemak Bay Family Planning are so important to our community's public health. I'm a certified nurse midwife & have been practicing as an Advanced Nurse Practitioner providing Women's Health Care in Homer x 23 years. Our private clinic relies on KBFP to provide low-cost contraceptive supplies to everyone - private sector cannot provide these services. Please accept Fed support.

Signed: Mary Lou Kelsey cnm, ANP  
TESTIFIER  
Homer Medical Clinic  
REPRESENTING  
Box 874, Homer, AK 99603  
ADDRESS  
907-299-1985  
PHONE NO.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HFIN  
 committee name  
 committee on HB 377, dated 3-5-04  
 bill/subject

I am a new resident to Homer and am concerned about the cuts to Title X. If this money is not reinstated, thousands of women in the South Kenai Peninsula area would not be able to receive free or low cost reproductive health care. Without this funding KBFP will not be able to provide these services. These women will have to visit a private provider & pay full rates. The funding for KBFP has nothing to do with abortion & funds Well woman health exams, Family Planning & Early detection cancer screening. Please reinstate the C12 K to Title X

Signed: Jules Harlnett Jules Harlnett

Testifier

KBFP

Representing (Optional)

POX 15043 Fritz Creek

Address

235-7578

Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the House Finance  
COMMITTEE NAME  
 committee on HB 375, dated 3/6/04  
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

I am here today to urge you to reinstate the \$412,000 in Federal TitleX funds to the Operating Budget. Here in Homer the Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic uses these funds to provide well-woman annual exams, essential cancer screening services and contraceptive counseling and supplies to low income women who would likely not receive this care if funding were not available. There are strictly enforced regulations in place that ensure that the funds are used for, ~~Exclusively~~ among other things, a choice of contraceptive methods, without coercion to use any particular method, and that the funds are not used for abortion.

To reject Federal Funds can only cost the State of Alaska, financially and socially as people go without needed care.

Signed: Leah Shay Hoffman Leah Shay Hoffman  
TESTIFIER  
SELF  
REPRESENTING  
P.O. Box 446 Homer, AK 99603  
ADDRESS  
255-9022  
PHONE NO.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the HFIN  
COMMITTEE NAME  
 committee on HB 375, dated 3-6-04  
BILL/SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

My name is CHRISTINE Fontaine  
 I am very concerned about the rejection of Federal money for Family Planning Services in Homer. The amount of FUNDS may not be very much to <sup>the</sup> state budget, but if this Title X money was rejected by our state, our communities on the Southern Kenai Peninsula would suffer an enormous loss. Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic has provided myself, and many other women in Homer and outlying rural areas with free and low cost healthcare. I have not had health insurance for parts of my life in ALASKA, and Kachemak Bay Family Planning has been the only place I have been able to receive consistent, professional, and much needed reproductive and general healthcare. These funds cost the state nothing and are not used to provide abortions. KBFPC would be financially devastated. Our community would be less healthy. Low income women would suffer.

Signed: Chris Fontaine  
TESTIFIER Chris Fontaine

REPRESENTING  
PO Box 1386 Homer, AK 99603  
ADDRESS  
235-0698  
PHONE NO.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the Home Finance Committee  
COMMITTEE NAME  
 committee on HB 375, dated 3/6/04  
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

My name is Elizabeth Neumann. I have been a member of this community for 15 yrs and have benefited from the services that Kachumak Bay Family Planning has provided during most of those years. Due to the fact that my work has not provided me with health insurance and at times just putting food on the table has been a challenging task. I feel so fortunate to know that this organization is out here to offer me the health care I need. This organization is a vital part of this community and without federal funding it would surely be put into dire straits.

Signed: ELIZABETH NEUMANN  
TESTIFIER  
self  
REPRESENTING  
42410 Old Sterling Hwy. Anchorage AK  
ADDRESS  
907 235-3667  
PHONE NO.

Please reinstate the title of funding  
 Thank You for your consideration

*Elizabeth Neumann*



# Alaska State Legislature

(H)

Please enter into the record by testimony to the Budget & Finance  
COMMITTEE NAME  
 committee on HB 375, dated 3/6/04  
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

Please reinstate money for Family Planning in the state of Alaska. ~~It~~  
 These services are mandatory for a healthy community. As a parent of two Adult Children I owe a thanks to Family Planning for helping educate my children ~~and~~ along with providing direct services to them. This quality of service will not be available to our community if this money is not reinstated. I urge you to come up with a fiscal plan to fund these Family Planning Clinic around the State

Signed: Mary Jane Shrus  
TESTIFIER

REPRESENTING  
PO Box 388  
ADDRESS  
235-4074  
PHONE NO.



# Alaska State Legislature

(H)

Please enter into the record by testimony to the Budget & Finance  
COMMITTEE NAME  
committee on HB 377, dated 3/6/04  
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

I would like to encourage you to come up with a fiscal plan for '05. I know the money is dwindling and we can no longer depend upon oil to support us, that is why I would support taxing my income or even spring part of my permanent fund to support social services in Alaska. I work with ~~the~~ developmentally disabled people ~~and~~ also I am an advisor for "People First" (an advocacy group). I have seen ~~the~~ <sup>direct</sup> benefits mental health services and the local PRIDE program have done for countless individuals. The DD population in Homer contributes to the community atmosphere so prevalent here. Please do not cut these services any further.

Signed: Mary Jane Shows  
TESTIFIER

PO Box 388, Homer, AK 99603  
REPRESENTING  
ADDRESS  
235-4074  
PHONE NO.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the HFIN  
COMMITTEE NAME  
 committee on HB375, dated 3-5-04  
BILL/SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

I stand with those supporting the reinstatement of the \$412,000 in Federal Title X funds to the Health and Social Services Operating Budget, House Bill 375. How could anyone not support accepting Federal money that helps uninsured and low-income women stay healthy in Homer at no cost to the State. The services provided by our Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic are necessary to and appreciated by those who use them. To lose these services would be a great loss to our community and would probably cost the state in other ways down the road.

Signed: Claudia Caffrey DeLapp  
TESTIFIER  
self  
REPRESENTING  
353 D Jonny Way Homer, Alaska 99603  
ADDRESS  
907-225-5434  
PHONE NO.



# Alaska State Legislature

(H)FIN

Please enter into the record by testimony to the Representative Mike Chenault

committee on SB375/377 Funding, dated Apr. 6, 2004

help before - Hello; I am a client of CMHC and appreciate  
I realized the funding is "short". However, it would be less expensive to continue mental health benefits, i.e. Medicaid, counsellors, support programs like the Annex, medicines (which would be unaffordable to many who are disabled mentally and which helps keep us out of hospitals). My income, as is others is below poverty level.

I am planning to try vocational training but, I have trouble functioning normally and can't seem to tolerate pressure. I'm almost 62 years old

I also believe that many of us mentally limited people would suffer if you cut Independent Living, especially help with taxi assistance. Please don't cut this organization. I also have physical problems requiring surgery.

Signed: Lois M. Huffman  
TESTIFIER  
Health benefits - self  
REPRESENTING  
3953 Main St, Apt 11  
ADDRESS  
(907) 235-0719  
PHONE NO.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the House Finance Committee

COMMITTEE NAME

committee on H.F. 315, dated March 6 2004

BILL / SUBJECT

TODAY'S DATE

As a mother of one adopted and one birth child, I speak from a position of living authority.

① It is unalaskan to legislate anything which personally affects an individual. Alaska is about PERSONAL FREEDOM.

② Homer Family Planning Clinic Does Alot of things. May I ask how many deeply personal exams you've had in your life? I can tell you how many I've had and it's close to 100. It is wonderful having it done in a caring supportive environment.

③ Focus on changing the mentality RE: adoption first... a natural progression away from abortion will follow.

Signed:

TESTIFIER

Glana L Greear

Glana Greear

REPRESENTING

Mothers

ADDRESS

PO Box 2156 HOMER 99603

PHONE NO

907 235 3227

④ Keep Church; State Separate

DO NOT CUT TOTAL '0' FUNDING



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the (H)FIN  
COMMITTEE NAME  
 committee on HB 375 dated 3/5/04  
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

I strongly encourage support for not rejecting  
 the \$412,000 in Federal Title X funds to the  
 Health & Social Services Operating Budget

I can't believe that anyone with any compassion  
 or common sense would reject funding that  
 doesn't cost the state of Ak anything and  
 helps so many people with such wonderful  
 services.

Signed: Phyllis J Kaufman Phyllis Kaufman  
TESTIFIER  
Self  
REPRESENTING  
PO Box 2613  
ADDRESS  
907-235-2313  
PHONE NO.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the (H)FIN  
COMMITTEE NAME  
 committee on HB377, dated 3/12/04  
BILL/SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

*I Am here for the mental Health Budget Discussion. Please Support Full Funding for mental Health*

Signed: Tacy Smith  
TESTIFIER  
Sc. 16  
REPRESENTING  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NO.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the Finance Appro,  
COMMITTEE NAME  
 committee on HB-377, dated 3-6-04.  
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

I would ask that you please not cut any more funds from Domestic Violence / Sexual Assault Programs, we speak by as it is trying to give services from crisis intervention to shelter for victims + their children to legal advocacy - Domestic Violence intervention program - ~~and~~ education in our schools and community - Please I am not only an employee of SPWS I am a survivor of DV. and our communities need these services, Thank you -

Signed: Jeannie Parker  
TESTIFY  
 REPRESENTING South Peninsula Womens Services  
 ADDRESS 3776 Lake Stc S100  
Homer 99603  
 PHONE NO. 235-7712 / Hm 235-9766



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the House finance committee  
COMMITTEE NAME  
 committee on Title X funding cut, dated 3-6-04  
BILL/SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

I am writing to ask the committee to please  
 reinstate the federal title X funding.

Our local Family Planning clinic is the only  
 resource for health care for me and many

of my uninsured friends in the community.

With rising costs of health care, I would be  
 unable to receive <sup>(afford)</sup> basic yearly health checks  
 without this funding. I have a family history  
 of cervical cancer, and the yearly screenings are  
 extremely important to my and all women's health.

Signed: Juliane Derry (Juliane Derry)  
TESTIFIER  
 REPRESENTING Self  
REPRESENTING  
 ADDRESS  
 PHONE NO. (907) 235-6026

Thank you



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the House Finance Ctr.  
COMMITTEE NAME

committee on Title X Funding, dated 3/6/04  
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

I am writing today to urge the committee to reinstate federal Title X funding back into the operating budget. As a low income person I rely on the services available at the Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic that this funding provides for. Without this funding women & low income women will be forced to forego basic health care & be left without family planning resources. Please accept this federal funding that allows so many women in this community access to basic health services. Accepting this money places no additional burden on the state, however, rejecting the funding will place undue burden on low income women & families.

Signed: Jody Scholz - Jody Scholz  
 TESTIFIER  
 REPRESENTING  
P.O. Box 15187  
 ADDRESS  
907-235-6026  
 PHONE NO.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record by testimony to the House FINANCE  
COMMITTEE NAME  
 committee on HB 375, dated 6 MARCH 04.  
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

My NAME IS TARRI THURMAN. I AM A  
 KACHEMAK BAY FAMILY PLANNING ~~BO~~ CLINIC  
 BOARD MEMBER. WE WORK VERY HARD TO  
 PROVIDE LOW COST HEALTH CARE TO  
 LOW INCOME INDIVIDUALS. WE NEED ~~SEE~~  
 THE TITLE X FUNDING TO CONTINUE OFFERING  
 THESE VERY NEEDED SERVICES. THIS  
 TITLE X FUNDING PROVIDED 2900 UNINSURED  
 LOW INCOME WOMEN BASIC NECESSARY  
 ANNUAL EXAMS - CANCER SCREENING FOR  
 A TOTAL OF 6,100 MEDICAL VISITS. THIS IS  
 SO VERY IMPORTANT TO THE HEALTH OF  
 OUR COMMUNITY. PLEASE KEEP THESE  
FEDERAL FUNDS COMING TO US.

Signed: TARRI THURMAN  
TESTIFIER

KBFPL BOARD MEMBER  
REPRESENTING

PO BOX 15001 FRITZ CREEK AK 99603  
ADDRESS

235-8248  
PHONE NO.



# Alaska State Legislature

(H) FIN

Please enter into the record by testimony to the MIKE CRENNAK  
COMMITTEE NAME

committee on HOUSE FINANCE, dated MARCH 2004  
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

My concern is REGARD OF MEDICAL COSTS  
IN REFERENCE TO MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING &  
PREFERRED DRUG LIST. THE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM IN  
COMBINATION WITH THE APPROPRIATE MEDICATIONS AND  
NEED HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM MENTAL PROBLEMS  
FROM PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTIONS WHICH ARE MUCH MORE  
CHEAP THAN MEDICAL.

Thank you for your attention

Signed: Patricia Arnold  
TESTIFIER

State Representative Deborah L. Arnold  
REPRESENTING

1000 W. 1st Ave. Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
ADDRESS

235-7119  
PHONE NO.



# STATE of ALASKA

*Bethel Legislative Information Office*

PO Box 886  
Bethel, Alaska 99559  
(907) 543-3541  
Fax- 543-3542

Written Testimony  
for the  
Record:

TCN: 4346

Committee: HFIN - 465-6813

Date: 3/6/04

Bill Number(s): HB 375

Subject(s): Operating Budget

**Please enter my testimony into the record.**

Jo Anne Williams / Mike Hawes  
Testifier's name (s):

Bethel Community Services  
Representing (opt.)

Address

Phone

**Testimony on proposed OPERATING BUDGET HB 375**

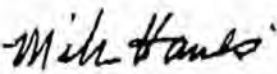
This is Joanna Williams ,STAR Coordinator at Bethel Community Services and Mike Hanes, DD Case Manager at Bethel Community Services. We know of many people that utilize the Vocational Rehabilitation services in this area and it has tremendously helped the individual with their self esteem and helped them get on their feet. It's the people we provide services to and have referred to Vocational Rehabilitation here in Bethel, Alaska. The services have made big differences for the individuals with disabilities and the individuals are contributing back into the community by continuing to work and keeping the economy going as well. Having the office or service in Bethel or in any rural area is very beneficial to outlining areas because it is closer to where we live and the counselor knows and understands the environment/culture.

We feel that closing the rural Vocational Rehabilitation office is not fair for individuals with disabilities from the rural areas. The 'big' offices in the cities like Anchorage have no first hand clue of what it's like to live in the rural area and we don't feel that they will not deliver the best service. We have worked together with the local Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor- Vicki Keele in promoting choice and opportunities for our consumers. Vicki has been very helpful and been available to many consumers from surrounding villages. If we don't have a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor available locally, it will take too long to provide those services to our people in the villages. We hope that you understand why we need the Vocational Rehabilitation offices in the rural areas open.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

  
Joanna Williams, STAR Coordinator

  
Mike Hanes, DD Case Manager

I am writing you about the proposed reduction of \$126,000 in general funds to the Dept of Labor and Workforce Development, Vocational Rehabilitation.

A reduction of \$126,000 in general funds would amount to a loss of \$252,000 due to the corresponding federal match that would reduce dollar for dollar.

The impact of the proposed reduction on Services Delivered to the Public would be in the Vocational Rehabilitation Client Services component and will have an affect on the divisions ability to deliver vocational rehabilitation services to people with disabilities and to help them become employed. This would adversely effect our economy as we have many very reliable people with disabilities who have entered and who are willing to enter into the workforce.

The intended cut will result in a wait list for Vocational Rehabilitation Services that would affect an estimated 420 individuals with disabilities.

I urge you to reconsider the reduction of \$126,000 in General Funds from the Dept of Labor and Workforce Development FY 2005 budget.

Thank you sincerely: Martha Outwater

Martha Outwater, Maniilaq Voc Rehab Project Director



# Alaska State Legislature

March 6, 2004

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance  
HB 375 - Operations Budget committee name  
committee on HB 377 - Appropriations dated \_\_\_\_\_  
bill/subject on Mental Health

Please include this information  
in the meeting today at 2:00 PM.  
\*See the attached testimony

\*Two Pages

Signed: Lorraine Helling  
Testifier Donald Helling  
Representing (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address P.O. Box 874645  
Phone Number Wasilla AK 99687-4645  
373-1695

**Lorraine and Don Helling**  
P.O. Box 874615  
4484 W. Neumar Drive  
Wasilla, Alaska 99687  
907-373-1695 Phone ~ 907-373-1695 Fax

**Testimony Regarding Budget Cuts**  
**to**  
**Department of Vocational Rehabilitation**

In 1956, at the age of 18, my husband, Don Helling, was struck with polio, leaving him a quadriplegic. Now, at the age of 65, he can look back on his life and enjoy the memory of accomplishments.....a career in real estate, a time of art classes and paintings, two unpublished books and our marriage (his first) when he was 63. Not only did we marry at a late age, but Don took his first airline flight and moved to my home in Wasilla, leaving behind a home in Colorado that was fully equipped for a wheelchair. Don has done something with his life, despite severe physical limitations.

Despite a hospital accident last summer which has taken about a year out of our lives for recovery, Don remains positive and looks ahead to getting back to his desk and voice activated computer program, which was furnished by the DVR. A plan is in progress to help Don continue writing with this special computer program. What a blessing and encouragement to him to have an attainable goal, thanks to the help of the DVR. Don has talent as an author both in the field of historical fiction and in the area of encouragement. The DVR expects to be able to help him publish his works, especially his book on encouragement which will help many who are disabled or facing major difficulties in life.

Without this voice activated computer program, Don would be without hope of writing again. At this time in his life, a voice activated computer is the only way he is able to prepare his manuscripts. Disabled people need a future to look forward to, just as the rest of us who have normal abilities. Don has hope for a future and a way to help support our family, through his writing. Beyond his writing, Don will again enjoy communication with his ham radio buddies, Internet research, and e-mail communication with family and friends, as soon as he recovers from the hospital accident.

The DVR has helped us in other ways, too, enabling Don to live and work at home. Both Don and I would like to bring the importance of the work at the DVR to your attention and ask that you carefully review any budget cuts that are being considered. The DVR helps disabled people become more independent and more productive in their lives, even to the point of remaining in their own homes, rather than being confined to an institution. I might add that cost to taxpayers is greatly reduced when a disabled person is able to remain at home.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

*Lorraine and Don Helling*

Lorraine and Don Helling

March 6, 2004

3/6/04

To: House Finance Committee, of Alaska Legislature

Re: Proposed 2005 FY budget should enact revenues rather than program slashes destructive to Alaska's many communities.

From: James E. Fisher, 171 Farnsworth, Soldotna 99669

Phone: 262-9601 - fax: 262-9641

I urge enactment of revenue enhancing measures rather than cuts to vital programs such as the various senior programs as proposed by the subcommittee.

This budget cycle should avoid further proposed reductions<sup>1</sup> to those affecting our state's most vulnerable people - our seniors and or children

Since 1995, we have heard Alaska can not grow, or cut, its way out of a fiscal gap. Yet in 2004(for FY2005) we hear you considering: 1) slashing seniors' other than drug help; 2) consigning children to less health maintenance; and so on.

None of any proposed cuts come close to solving the fiscal gap. Revenue measures should be started before any finalization of budget allocations.

An unnamed theologian said "the self righteous will lead us to hell"; Alaska's analogy is that the proposed deterioration of Alaska's senior and education programs could throw us into a recession or some other kind of social hell.

(HFin3304 testimony)

<sup>1</sup> For documentation see attached analysis.

*3/6/04 - Confirmation of testimony  
to House Finance  
J.E.F.*

**Reductions to Medicaid Waivers or Grants  
Affecting seniors and adults with physical disabilities**

\$6,818.0	Reductions to plans of care (OA/APD)
\$ 790.4	Cost of living/ SB 105/ all waivers
\$7,235.0	Cost study/ reimbursement rate reductions
\$7,950.0	Reduce respite/ use adult day
\$2,900.0	Limit Administrative and General rate to 18%
\$4,905.7	Quality assurance/ Medicaid fraud
\$1,500.0	Monitoring Title III grants
\$1,000.0	Eliminate PCA and respite in assisted living
\$6,566.9	Reduce PCA
\$4,000.0	Nursing Home/ preadmission counseling
\$4,435.5	Reduce environmental modifications
\$ 200.0	Increase Title III grants match

*This is a summary of  
the attached analysis*  
JEF



James E. Fisher  
171 Farnsworth Blvd  
Soldotna AK 99669

262-9041

Planning for longer term  
DHSS

**Proposed FY05 budget  
Division of Senior and Disability Services  
Suggested impacts**

**Note:** all references in this document refer to the page numbers in the Department of Health and Social Services, FY05 Budget Overview.

**Preface:** one of the largest challenges facing today's health care system is managing chronic care. People with multiple chronic conditions have substantially more physician contacts and are more likely to be hospitalized each year. As the elderly age, they face an increased risk of having multiple chronic conditions. A Robert Wood Johnson study determined that, nationwide, almost all Medicare dollars and about 80 percent of Medicaid resources are spent on people with chronic conditions. Page 91 of the DHSS FY05, Budget Overview, contains a chart of Medicaid expenditures. This chart indicates that the largest Medicaid expenditures are hospital services, physician services, pharmacy, and nursing home care.

The RWJ study suggests that an effective chronic care model is organized around individuals' needs and preferences to coordinate services with the goal of maintaining health status and slowing disease progression. This model includes supportive services that are leveraged to enhance the effectiveness of medical care and to improve the quality of life for people with chronic conditions.

Many studies have shown that an effective coordinated community based service delivery system (supportive services) reduces costs across the continuum of care. In Alaska, Medicaid waivers and minimal grant funding provide the basic foundation for community care. This foundation helps to delay or prevent unnecessary nursing home placement, assists seniors in negotiating the bewildering health care system, reduces the number of contacts to physicians' offices, and can reduce hospital visits.

- An average cost for a senior under the Older Alaskan's waiver (home and community based care) is \$12,911; compared to the average nursing home cost of \$150,000 per patient per year.
- Unfortunately, the existing home and community based system for seniors is seriously under funded.
- This infrastructure will see damaging erosion if the FY05 proposed budget reductions are implemented, resulting in higher costs in the end.

The following information is a list of suggested impacts to the proposed budget reductions.

**Page 160: Cost Savings from Older Alaskans/Adults with Physical Disabilities (\$2,727.2) GF match and (\$4,090.8) Fed.**

- This reduction assumes that plans of care will be reduced through contracted care coordination assessment.
- This significant reduction is difficult to quantify since the Department has given no specific information about where the care plans will be reduced.

- A reduction of \$6,818 in waiver services will have a significant impact on those needing services, especially when taken in tandem with other proposed reductions.

**Page 160: Second year cost-of-living adjustments for Nursing Homes and Home and Community based waivers. (\$252.9) GF match and (\$37.5) Fed.**

- This savings is based on SB105 passed by the legislature last year. That bill effectively reduces the number of eligible recipients for Medicaid.
- DHSS does not indicate how many people might lose their eligibility.
- We have already experienced difficulty in qualifying people for the waiver even though the need was clear and the eligibility criteria seemed applicable.

**Page 160: Cost Study Savings for Medicaid Waivers. (\$2,894) GF match and (\$4,341) Fed.**

- This standardizes reimbursement rates for services across the four waivers.
- There is little specific information in this item; this is a projected assumption of savings based on a study that has not yet been conducted.
- We know that delivering services in rural areas cost more and that waivers are often the essential key to keeping elders in their home communities.

**Page 162: Reduce Respite Utilization. (\$3,180) GF match and (\$4,770) Fed**

- This reduces respite costs by using the more cost effective adult day service.
- This is an exceptionally effective cost containment strategy that also results in improved outcomes for seniors.
- This strategy, of course, only works in communities where there is an adult day program. Currently there are 12 adult day programs in 11 communities.
- Respite care under the waiver is reimbursed at \$22 an hour. If you divide the proposed \$7,950.0 reduction, that equals a reduction of 361,363 hours of respite.

**Page 162: Limit Administrative and General cost to 18%. (\$1,160) GFM and (\$1,740) Fed.**

- We are willing to do our part to contain costs, and will try to find a way to live within the 18% cap.
- Administrative burdens continue to increase with the state looking for more accountability financially, and in the area of outcomes that require more data collection and analysis.
- We would be concerned if this represents a downward trend that might continue over time.

**Page 162: Eliminate respite and personal care attendant services in Assisted Living Homes. (\$400.0) GF match and (\$600.0) Fed.**

- The state currently reimburses assisted living homes for services but not for room and board.
- It is very difficult for the homes to make ends meet with the current rates.

DRAFT

Kenai Food Bank Policy  
or  
Soliciting and Sales Persons on Premises

Sales Persons and Individuals Soliciting Business from Food Bank staff and employees shall adhere to the following policies and procedures on KPFB premises.

1. Sales solicitors shall call in advance and check to see if their visitation will disrupt special activities taking place on that day after 4:30 p.m.
2. Sales person may visit the KPFB after 4:30 p.m. to visit with staff and after the front office has closed. Visitations may be allowed earlier in the day if the Executive Director determines that it will not be disruptive to the Food Bank's operations.
3. All companies soliciting business at the KPFB must show proof of being registered with the Kenai Peninsula Sales Tax Division.
4. Companies that have demonstrated compliance with the Kenai Peninsula Borough Sales Tax Ordinance may drop off brochures at the front desk before 4:30 p.m. where they will be made available to employees. Employees and staff are not to be solicited at the time the brochures or catalogs are dropped off if it is before 4:30 p.m.
5. If visitations by any one company are disruptive then they may be limited to visiting the KPFB once a month or banned from soliciting employees on KPFB premises at the discretion of Executive Director.

Adopted by the Board of Directors on December 16, 2003.

HOUSE FINANCE CMTE 3-6-04

HB377

Hello My Name is Richard Warrington,

I'm from Kenai, I am a 25 years Survivor of Traumatic Brain Injury, I moved to Alaska with my family in 1986.

I tried to find Services to help me, there was Nothing. Even the Mental Health Councilor's were not trained to help people with Brain Injuries.

I have worked very hard over the 18 years, to get services for people with TBI here in Alaska.

According to the National Statistics the State of Alaska has the most amount of Brain Injury per capita.

From all the presentations I have made over the years, finally getting the Mental Health Board to start looking into services for Brain Injury.

Cognitive impairments from Brain Injury overlaps some ways with other styles of mental health trouble, but are still not the same kind of trouble.

I was appointed to the Newly formed State of Alaska TBI Advisory Board, to represent the Kenai Peninsula.

The Board is set up to help get Service's Through Out the State.

We receive Federal Funds from a HRSA Grant, With matching funds from the Mental Health Trust Authority.

Our Very First Training Conference for the Mental Health Agencies through out the State, will be held the 8<sup>th</sup>. & 9<sup>th</sup>. in Anchorage.

We are Just getting Started, assisting the other survivors around the state

Please Do Not Cut These Vital Funds in Mental Health.

A Whole Population of UN-serviced people live here in Alaska, They need some hope for Their Lives.

*The National Brain Injury Assoc Appointed me to the Ambassador program in '97 the same year I made a presentation to the finance committee the same year. talked about Brain Injury also.*

*There is 10,000, 50,000, even 100,000 survivors all around the state*

*Sincerely  
Richard Warrington*



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance  
committee name

Committee on

HB 375 General Operating Bd.  
bill # / subject

, dated

3/6/04

public hearing date

Education is the lifeblood of every community in Alaska. The proposed ~~cuts~~ <sup>increases</sup> to education are in reality a bandaid of sorts on the gushing wound that inflation inflicts on education year in and year out. The proposed increases are, in fact a good start, but in reality we need to insure that funding keeps pace with the cost of doing business.

Signed:

John W. Wensley  
Testifier  
SELF

Representing (optional)

580 Rance Court  
Address

283-6091  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

House Finance

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

General Operating Budget  
committee name

Committee on

HB 375

bill #/ subject

, dated

3/6/04

public hearing date

My name is Lincoln Wenzley, I live at 580 Rance Court, Kenai, Alaska. I am a 5th grader at Mtn View Elementary. I am reading in the newspaper that they are thinking about cutting teachers. Now, I have 7 more years in school left in my education, and I want the best education I can get. Spend more money on schools and we will continue to grow to 1. con forever. So please do not cut teachers, for children need a great education to grow up to be the next Neil Armstrong etc. Also, if you cut ~~out~~ teachers, I will not learn about the information about ~~the~~ that I am now ~~learning~~. So spend money on schools, and do not cut teachers.

I know you have the money, so spend it the right way.

Signed:

Lincoln Wenzley

Testifier

Representing (optional)

580 Rance Ct. Kenai AK 99611

Address

283-6091

Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance Committee  
committee name

Committee on

HB 377  
bill # / subject

, dated

6 MAR 04  
public hearing date

I know it's a downturn time in our state,  
 But cutting our health service programs  
 is not a way to close that gap.  
 I'm specially speaking to mental health issues  
 we have just got the state Traumatic Brain Injury  
 Advisory Board started, mental health agencies  
 will finally have training which will  
 now provide service for TBI survivors  
 after ~~many~~ 4 years of working to this end,  
 you now want to cut that service  
 just at the beginning! Please Don't!

20 year resident - Grandmother, Great Grandmother  
 Education is important too.

Health for these babies.

The senior issues will be important in a few years  
 what will we have in our future ?? for ours  
 & our families ??

Signed:

Mary E. Warrington  
Testifier

Kenai Peninsula Brain Injury Support Group  
Representing (optional)

313 Cindy Circle - Kenai, AK 99611  
Address

907-283-5711  
Phone number

**HB**

**375**

SFIN

FILE

ADOPTED  
Admin #1

Amendment to SCS for CS HB 375(FIN) version 23-GF2040\C

Offered By: Senator Green by request

ADD

Department: Administration

Appropriation: Centralized Administrative Services

Allocation: Finance

Fund Source Number and Name: 1108 Statutory Designated Program Receipts

Amount: \$87,500

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Department of Administration is requesting an FY2005 budget amendment increment of \$87,500 of Statutory Designated Program Receipts for the Division of Finance.

The Division of Finance administers a statewide credit card program for purchasing travel, contractual services, and commodities. Based on average annual net spent per account and payment history, the state receives a rebate from our credit card provider, First National Bank Alaska. The Division of Finance has budgeted statutory designated program receipts of \$112,500 each year to use this rebate. In FY2004, the rebate was \$158,712, and it is expected that the same amount will be forthcoming in FY2005. The Division of Finance would like to use the excess receipts of approximately \$87,500 in FY2005 to fund additional start up costs of a Central Travel Office to serve all state agencies.

ADOPTED  
DCED # 1

AMENDMENT TO SCS CSHB 375 (FIN) version 23-GF2040\C

Offered By: Senator Fred Dyson

ADD

Local Boundary Commission

Community Advocacy

Community Assistance & Economic Development

Department of Community and Economic Development

<u>Fund Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Funds	\$30,000

Description:

This funding is intended for the citizens and community of Eagle River, the second largest community in the state, to conduct community meetings and circulate petitions for the purpose of considering options for seceding from the Municipality of Anchorage and forming a separate local government.