

AK LEGISLATURE FINANCE COMMITTEES FILES 2007-2008 3182



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 96 (Op. Budget), dated 4-11-07
Bill/Subject

- 5 pages total
- cover
- 2 page testimony
- 2 attachments

Signed Francine Harbour Francine Harbour
Testifier

NAMI Anchorage - Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness
Representing (Optional)

831 Elm St. Apt. 434, Anch AK 99501
Address

(907) 279-1947 (home) (907) 272-0227 NAMI
Phone number

To: Senate Finance Committee
Re: **HB 96 – \$100,000 in Funding for Peer-Operated Mental Health Services**
Date: April 11, 2007

My name is Francine Harbour. I am a volunteer at the Anchorage office of NAMI--the National Alliance on Mental Illness. I am a person who has recovered from a severe mental illness with the help of peer-operated services. The AMHTA Trust Recommendations included these funds for Peer Operated Support Services in the amount of \$100,000: \$50,000 from GF/MH and \$50,000 from MHTAAR. These funds were also included in the House mental health budget under "Behavioral Health—Severely Mentally Ill." But this item was not included in the Senate bill.

On behalf of the Consumer Consortium, a fellowship of over 25 non-profits with members recovering from mental illness, we ask that these funds be included in the budget.

Peer-operated services are not provided by mental health *clinicians or institutions*, but instead by mental health *peers*—the people in the trenches, who have had the experience of recovering from mental illness and who want to help others do the same. The \$100,000 funding will enable the severely mentally ill to help each other to improve our conditions and our lives at much less cost to the public than more intensive services. Thus, this funding is also consistent with the goal of the Governor and Senate to contain costs and achieve efficiencies while providing basic supports to Alaskans such as the severely mentally ill who usually cannot provide for themselves.

The Alaska Mental Health Board and the Mental Health Trust included these funds in their recommendations for several reasons. Research has proved the *outcome* effectiveness of peer-operated services. In other words, people with mental illness do improve when helped by their peers. Peer-operated services also have *cost* effectiveness because they prevent costly hospitalization and other more intensive services. This prevention saves Medicaid dollars, for example. Peer-operated services also foster independence. This independence helps people with mental illness rely less on public services. Mental health peers also work with the local police Crisis Intervention Teams to de-escalate situations and often prevent incarceration. A smaller amount of funding for peer-operated services can save much more money down the road for more expensive services.

Two brief examples demonstrate the effectiveness of peer-operated mental health services. The first is my own story. Because my psychiatric medications as prescribed by the community mental health clinic were inadequate, I became very ill. The clinic was undergoing

budget cuts at the time and I lost my counselor. So no one was observing my rapid decline. I had no support system at that time, no adults to help me, and I was raising two sons. Finally, the worst happened, I became so ill and so desperate to get away from the symptoms of my illness that I attempted suicide and very nearly killed myself. After I was released from the hospital, I went back to the clinic and again received no significant care. The second highest risk of suicide occurs during the period right after the attempt if there is inadequate aftercare. That's what happened to me. I eventually found myself walking down A Street in Anchorage, close to the WalMart. I was waiting for bus 75 to come by because I was going to walk in front of it and finish the job. Then in a moment of clarity, I remembered that a friend had asked me to go with her to a peer-run support group meeting at NAMI. Instead of throwing myself in front of the bus that day, I made it to NAMI, and the peer volunteers there took me in, supported me and helped me get well enough to finish the job of raising my children. Today, I am alive and I have just finished providing five years of volunteer service at NAMI to help others like me; my sons are in college; and one is even serving our country as a Navy Reservist in Security Operations. In other words, the peer-provided services at NAMI worked and at very little cost to the public.

And just this week, I was contacted in my role as a NAMI peer advocate by a family on the Kenai Peninsula whose adult daughter had become highly agitated and lost the ability to sleep. As a result she had started to have hallucinations. Not knowing what to do, they contacted me for help. I called the Providence Psychiatric Emergency Services and confirmed what I already suspected. If the family could get the daughter to sleep, the hallucinations may stop and a hospitalization could be avoided. They can watch her for a few days and see if she gets better. They would only come into town to go to Providence or API if her condition doesn't improve. This peer support gave the family the information they needed immediately to make a decision about hospitalization, which will now hopefully be avoided.

The \$100,000 in funding would be a small part in helping to grow this vital movement toward cost-effective peer-operate services that reduce more expensive public services. We ask you to support this initiative and give peer support groups the opportunity to further demonstrate our cost-saving value to the community.

Attached are two informational sheets. Thank you for your consideration.

Peer Operated Behavioral Health Services: Smarter Spending. Not More Spending
Peer-Provided Behavioral Health Services Proven Effective

Tranere Harlow
4-10-07



Providence Alaska Medical Center
3760 Piper Street
P.O. Box 196604
Anchorage, AK 99519-6604

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: April 11, 2007
ATTN: The Honorable Lyman Hoffman
COMPANY: Alaska State Senate
FAX # 907-465-4523
PHONE # 907-465-4453
FROM: Joel Gilbertson
DEPARTMENT: PROVIDENCE ADMINISTRATION
PHONE # 907-743-2784
THIS FAX CONTAINS: 3 PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET

*4/12 "enter
into public
record"
for please call
La'Donna Blake*

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Enclosed is a copy of a letter for Senator Hoffman. The original will be placed in the mail today. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you
La'Donna Blake
Executive Assistant to
Joel Gilbertson

Providence | Alaska
Medical Center3200 Providence Drive
P.O. Box 196604
Anchorage, Alaska
99519 6604

Tel: 907.562.2211



April 10, 2007

The Honorable Lyman Hoffman and
The Honorable Bert Stedman
Co-Chairs, Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol, Room 532
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: State Funding Support for Community
Health Centers

Dear Chairman Hoffman, Chairman Stedman, and Senate Finance Committee Members:

I am writing to express Providence's continued support for a collection of initiatives aimed at strengthening safety-net health care services in our state and, in particular, primary health care access for Medicare beneficiaries. Specifically, Providence encourages and respectfully requests your support for funding for the Alaska Family Medicine Residency program (AFMR), Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center's (ANHC) capital initiative, and the Community Health Centers' (CHC) safety-net relief package. Together, these investments will assist in stabilizing a vital public health network that works to lower the cost of care, while improve the quality of care delivered to Alaskans.

As you know, it is becoming increasingly difficult for Medicare beneficiaries to find a physician able to provide them with needed health care services. This problem is being added on to a primary and urgent care system that is struggling to meet community needs. Right now, Alaska's hospital emergency departments are becoming the provider of necessity to thousands of Alaskans. Uncompensated care and patient volume in our emergency department is at an all-time high. As you know, relying on emergency departments to meet this need leads to more fragmented and costly care.

A key strategy to improve this situation is investing in lower-cost primary care services. The AFMR program provides training in Alaska for primary care residents who overwhelmingly remain in our state to serve Alaskans. With an increased supply of primary care physicians, patients will be able to establish a medical home and have improved access to care. A state investment of \$2 million will allow the residency to maintain a class size of twelve graduates per year, for a total program size of thirty-six residents. As you know, many of these residents move to rural areas in Alaska after graduation. During their time in the residency, they provide primary care services through clinic work and rotations in rural areas including Bethel, Dillingham and Kotzebue.

The Honorable Lyman Hoffman and
The Honorable Bert Steidman
Co-Chairs, Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Senate

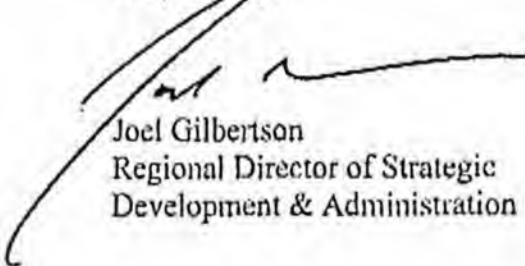
April 10, 2007
Page 2

Providence also supports capital funding for an improved ANHC and to strengthen the CHC system. A new ANHC facility is needed to meet the care needs of a growing uninsured and underinsured population. The existing center is unable to accommodate the current patient demand, and has weakened their ability to serve Medicare beneficiaries lacking other alternatives. The CHC request of \$2.3 million will provide similar value across the state. Because CHCs provide preventative care and early intervention, fewer Alaska residents will utilize expensive emergency department care.

With the number of uninsured working residents growing, Medicare beneficiaries unable to find a physician accepting new patients, and the high cost of health care in Alaska, it is important that the State support efforts to improve our primary care system. With a solid potential to curb Medicaid spending and reduce inappropriate emergency room use and preventable hospital stays, this is a wise investment in the health of Alaska's residents and economy.

Thank you for your consideration, and for all you do each day in service to Alaska.

Respectfully,



Joel Gilbertson
Regional Director of Strategic
Development & Administration

JSG:lb

cc: Members of the Senate Finance Committee:
The Honorable Charlie Huggins
The Honorable Kim Elton
The Honorable Donny Olson
The Honorable Joe Thomas
The Honorable Fred Dyson

Sandy Burd

From: fndmb2@uaf.edu
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2007 7:50 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Support an amendment to adequately fund UA. Alaska's future is dependent upon quality workers and the best education possible will provide that. By putting the university system in a shortfall we are saying that education isn't that important. Please fund the University of Alaska, it is where great minds are cultivated.

Sincerely,
Deselee Baker
1423 Lacey St
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Sandy Burd

From: Elena [rendezvous@kpunet.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 4:15 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: DOL amendment

Dear Senator Hoffman,

Would you please offer your support along with Senator Thomas of Fairbanks in amending the DOL budget to permanently include 100,000 dollars to the Independent Living budget-this increase would better serve the YK Delta and other underserved areas of the State, with increased Outreach with independent living services.

Independent living services benefit persons w/disabilities access information & referral, benefits counseling, peer support, skills development, and also includes access to recreation activities.

For more info about Independent Living Centers go to www.sailinc.org which can link you to other centers and the State Independent Living Council that serve most areas of the State.

Thank you for your consideration.

Elena Rath
Executive Director
Rendezvous Senior Day Services, Inc.
2441 First Avenue
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
907-247-1961
907-247-1963 fax
rendezvous@kpunet.net

Rendezvous Senior Day Services, Inc. is committed to a safe, healthy and caring environment that provides for the well being for seniors and adults with disabilities.

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April 11, 2007

The Honorable Governor Sarah Palin
State of Alaska
P. O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Palin:

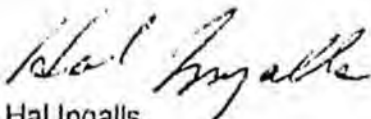
As a property owner at the Deshka Landing Outdoor Recreation Site, I would like to express my opposition to the proposed construction of the State boat launch facility at Willow Creek State Recreation Area.

There are at least three private launch facilities within seven road miles of this proposed new launch and the Deshka Landing is one of them. As a member of the Deshka Landing Outdoor Association, I, along with the other members, have contributed our personal funds to establish and maintain this facility which is open to the general public to use year round. I do not think it is appropriate for the State to be in competition with the private sector. The State already operates the Susitna Landing which is about seven river miles from this proposed new site. Several State agencies, including DNR and Parks and Recreation have stated their opposition to this site as being unsafe for a launch facility.

THE STATE DOES NOT NEED TO BE IN ANY MORE BUSINESSES!!

I would be happy to discuss this with you, if you desire.

Sincerely,



Hal Ingalls
6780 Laudon Circle
Anchorage, AK 99502
907-440-2289

cc: Lieutenant Governor Parnell
All Senators
All Representatives

Sandy Burd

From: Sam Shields [sshields@cityofbethel.net] - *Handwritten signature*
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 12:56 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Cc: 'Agatha John-Shields'; 'Allen Joseph'; traveling_brenda@yahoo.com; milksmail@aol.com; sshields@cityofbethel.net; sshieldsjr@aol.com; 'Monica Leinberger'; 'Sharon John'; 'Jim Chaliak'; 'Nels Alexie'
Subject: Charter Schools Funding - Thank You

Afternoon Sen. Hoffman,

I serve as the co-chair of the Academic Policy Committee Board for the Ayaprun Elitnaurvik Yup'ik Immersion School in Bethel. On behalf of the students, parents, staff and the APC Board, I say "QUYANA / THANK YOU" "for your support for the \$200,000 funding that was placed into the base education budget for the charter schools through out Alaska.

Ayaprun Elitnaurvik Yup'ik Immersion School has been a charter school for over eight years and for the first since being chartered, our student count dropped below 150 students. Because of this drop in numbers, our school funding for next year was decreased nearly \$85,000. We would have lost not only some of the certified teachers but also some of the classified teachers and staff, if it was not for the \$84,000 we were awarded from the charter school grant.

Last year our charter school is one of the few schools in the Lower Kuskokwim School District that made AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) under the NCLB (no child left behind) act of 2001. Our School has been recognized locally, nationally and internationally for our academic and cultural achievements. Our LKSD district office has tracked the student that has graduated from our school and is now in our High School. The data they received showed that most of the students that graduated from our school grade point average were above those students in the high school students that did not attend the Ayaprun Elitnaurvik Yup'ik Immersion. It should also be noted that most of our graduates has already past the State of Alaska High School Graduation Qualification test (HSGQ), and our other former graduates is has to pass only one or two of the HSGQ test to pass. We can not deny the data and the data shows that charter schools works!

There are many other accomplishments that our students and staff have achieved and yet due circumstances mostly beyond our control our student numbers dropped below 150. Although are projecting our student numbers to be well above the 150 mark if it do not reach the 150 mark the \$200,000 that was placed in the Education Operating Budget that will be essential to not only for the survival of Ayaprun Elitnaurvik Yup'ik Immersion School but also but will be essential for survival of other charter schools throughout Alaska.

Again I say, on behalf of students, parents and staff of not only Ayaprun Elitnaurvik Yup'ik Immersion School but also all of the charter schools throughout Alaska, a big "QUYANA / THANK YOU" to you for your support of all of the charter schools through out Alaska.

For the children,



Sam Shields
 Ayaprun Elitnaurvik Yup'ik Immersion School
 Co-Chair Academic Policy Committee, Bethel, Alaska

Sandy Burd

From: Eric Evon [eevon@avcphousing.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 5:02 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Charter School Funding

Sen Hoffman,

I am writing to urge you and your associates to continue and support Charter School funding. I worked at Ayaprun Elitnaurvik for a period of two years. This school is special and should continue to stay open, forever in my opinion. This school is re-educating our Yupik people. Anyone who is Yupik has the right to be proud of this school. Please continue your support of Charter School Funding. I am 26 years old, the younger generation after mine had already lost the culture and language. Help support the preservation of your culture and heritage, please.

Eric Evon
Occupancy Specialist
AVCP Regional Housing Authority
P.O. Box 767
Bethel, Ak 99559
eevon@avcphousing.org
1.800.478.4687 Toll Free
1.907.543.1344 Direct
1.907.543.4020 Fax

Sandy Burd

From: Peter Tuluk [nauliaran@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 11:37 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: House Bill 95

Senator Hoffman, My name is Peter Tuluk from Chevak and I am also on the AVCP Executive Board. I am also a member of the Alaska Legal Service Corporation Board representing AVCP Board for the past two years. Recently the subcommittee on Commerce, Economic Development and including a \$300,000.00 for Alaska Legal Service Corporation was supported. As you know most families in the villages are of low income families especially in Y-K Delta Villages. As a Alaska Legal Service Corporation Board member I support ALSC mission to provide better legal services to villages we serve.

Your support and passage of the \$300,000.00 appropriation to ALSC will be most beneficial to village people we serve throughout Alaska. Thank you. Peter

Food fight? Enjoy some healthy debate
in the Yahoo! Answers Food & Drink Q&A

Sandy Burd

From: M. Lynn Crane [usafved@arctic.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 5:04 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Fred Dyson
Subject: Alaska Community Health Center Funding

TO: Alaska Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to urge you fund Alaska's Community Health Centers (CHCs). These vital centers are essential to the health and well-being of Alaskans, especially rural Alaskans. As the director of a small domestic violence shelter in Unalaska, I can tell you that many of our clients and their children would not have access to any health care at all were it not for our local community health center.

It makes no sense that Alaska does not fund these programs. The availability of affordable health care within one's own community results in lower total health care costs for us all. Alaska needs to join the 36 other states who provide funding to CHCs within their communities.

Thank you.

M. Lynn Crane

Executive Director

Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence (USAFV)

PO Box 36 Unalaska AK 99685

ph (907) 581-3310 or (907) 581-1500 fx (907) 581-4568

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Sandy Burd

From: Alice Ruby, Mayor [mayor@dillinghamak.us]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 2:49 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Dillingham City Schools

Greetings Senator Hoffman:

Thanks so much for your efforts this session. I have plans to travel to Juneau in the next couple of weeks and hope that you will be able to chat with us. I know that you will be very busy as the session draws closer to the end.

I am writing because I had the opportunity to visit with Kay Andrew, a municipal representative from our neighbor to the north (Aleknagik). She suggested that I communicate with you because you expressed some concern about an appropriation for Dillingham Schools. I wasn't real sure what particular project she was describing but I'm very glad that our school is among the projects for which funding is being considered.

Of course as you know we've been struggling to address issues with the school facility for over a year now. We're in tandem with the school board and hope to be able to address issues this year and in the future too.

I am happy to provide any information that I can. Is there something in particular that we need to do or information that we need to provide?

Alice J Ruby, Mayor
City of Dillingham

Sandy Burd

From: Robert Clark [rclark@bbahc.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 2:52 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Cc: Rose Heyano; Regan Mattingly; Marilyn Kasmar
Subject: FW: Community Health Center support

Lyman, I thought I had sent this to you earlier but with the hearing coming up at 3:30 today that Rose Heyano from my organization will be attending I noted I forgot you from the list I sent. Much of the State has and rely's on CHC's. In your District alone we have several centers between BBAHC, YKHC, APIA, and EAT, SCF, Bristol Bay Borough. Please fund the CHC request.
Robert Clark

From: Robert Clark
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2007 4:38 PM
To: 'Senator_Donny_Olson@legis.state.ak.us'
Cc: 'Rep. Bryce Edgmon'; 'Regan Mattingly'; Darrel Richardson
Subject: Community Health Center support

As a Board member of the Alaska Primary Health Care Association and in my capacity as President /CEO of the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, as well as the Chair of the Statewide Association of Tribal Health Directors', I urge you and your colleagues to put forth a budget amendment for \$2.3 million in state support for Community Health Centers in Alaska. In our part of the state we have four(4) Community Health Centers (sub regional or mid level clinics) and are applying for another HRSA grant to work in conjunction with our Hospital as we serve a lot of poor "non-bens". Any help the state can provide would be much appreciated.
Thank you. Robert J. Clark, President/CEO, BBAHC.

Sandy Burd

From: Gladys M. Askoak [gaskoak@bbahc.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 8:55 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Kim Elton; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Fred Dyson
Subject: FW: Community Health Center support

From: Robert Clark
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2007 4:38 PM
To: 'Senator_Donny_Olson@legis.state.ak.us'
Cc: 'Rep. Bryce Edgmon'; 'Regan Mattingly'; Darrel Richardson
Subject: Community Health Center support

As a Board member of the Alaska Primary Health Care Association and in my capacity as President /CEO of the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, as well as the Chair of the Statewide Association of Tribal Health Directors', I urge you and your colleagues to put forth a budget amendment for \$2.3 million in state support for Community Health Centers in Alaska. In our part of the state we have four(4) Community Health Centers (sub regional or mid level clinics) and are applying for another HRSA grant to work in conjunction with our Hospital as we serve a lot of poor "non-bens". Any help the state can provide would be much appreciated. Thank you. Robert J. Clark, President/CEO, BBAHC.

Sandy Burd

From: John Davies [jdavies@alaska.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 9:47 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: UA vote today

Senator Hoffman,

Please support UA amendment by Joe Thomas today (Thursday) it is important to cover fixed costs as house intended to and to support the WAMI and other health initiatives.

Thanks,

John Davies

Sandy Burd

From: ech2123@hotmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 10:59 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Support an amendment to adequately fund UA.

The University is the intellectual center of our state and community. It trains our current and future citizens. It is an important resource to our community. A strong university is necessary to maintain a stable well trained professional work force.

Our state founders knew this and believed in fully funding the university. They left prime land for the university to draw on. It would have no problem today if politicians would have honored this wisdom. Now they are left with parcels of land that require them to deforest and deface beautiful areas of our state to pay their bills.

I find underfunding the university short sighted and ill advised. We need to look to our future.

Sincerely, Elayne Hunter 1640 Crescent Dr.
Anchorage

Sincerely,
Elayne Hunter
1640 Crescent Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99524

Sandy Burd

From: elderfrey@gci.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 10:02 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

As a graduate of UAA whose daughter will be going there in the fall, I'm very concerned about state funding for UAA. In order to even maintain current services, fixed costs must be fully funded. UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Please support an amendment to adequately fund UA.

Sincerely,
Shonti Elder
3101 Danny's Ave.
Wasilla, AK 99654

Sandy Burd

From: clinh@pobox.alaska.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 9:00 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Support an amendment to adequately fund UA.

Sincerely,
Jean Kollantai
P.O. Box 91377
Anchorage, AK 99509

Sandy Burd

From: Fat Kouris [pkouris@accessalaska.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 5:04 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Kim Elton; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Fred Dyson
Subject: Budget Amendment for Funding of Community Health Centers

Dear Finance Committee Members:

I cannot stress enough the importance of Community Health Centers to the health and welfare of many Alaskans....over 80,000 individuals. The health service is not free, with a sliding fee scale, but allows access to medical care for many Alaskans, including working Alaskans with no insurance, those with no or very low income, and elderly Alaskans on Medicare. It is well known that most private physicians in Alaska DO NOT accept Medicare, and CHC's are the only option for many elders. If these folks seek medical services at the Emergency Rooms across the State, medical costs will rise for all of us.

CHS's provide a safety net while saving Alaska Medicaid dollars and they are cost effective.

Remember if you, or someone you care about, is OVER 65, CHC's may well be the only option for medical care.

It is imperative for Alaska to provide funding for the CHC's.....\$2.3 million is a bargain when compared to the service provided to Alaska's citizens (as compared to Hawaii's provision of \$19 million in funding for their CHC's, it's a steal!!)

Thank you in advance for your consideration and I hope that you will do the RIGHT thing by supporting CHC funding.

Respectfully,

Patricia Kouris
631 E. 22nd Avenue, Apt B4
Anchorage, AK 99503
1-907-274-2534

Pat Kouris

Sandy Burd

From: Linda Kiggins [lkiggins@accessalaska.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 4:53 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Increase in State Independent Living Funding

Alaska's Centers for Independent Living (CILs)

FY08 Budget Talking Points

Centers for Independent Living are requesting the following two budget items:

1. A permanent increase of \$100,000 in State Independent Living funding.
 - a. CILs continue to serve more people each year while funding has remained relatively flat over the past decade. 112% more disabled and senior Alaskans have been served in the past three years – 3,200 persons in 2006 alone.
 - b. Costs to provide these preventive services that keep people out of expensive institutions are rising, stretching and even breaking Alaska's CIL budgets.
 - c. CILs are only 9% State funded. Alaska's CILs leverage State dollars, and are extremely resourceful, cost-effective agencies providing necessary services on behalf of the State of Alaska.

2. A \$94,000 increase to support *interpreter referral services* for Alaskans who are deaf and hard-of-hearing.
 - a. This program allows deaf and hard of hearing Alaskans whose primary language is American Sign Language, to access medical and legal services, the justice system and employment and training.
 - b. The program has been flat-funded for over 17 years, while the deaf population is growing in areas like the Kenai Peninsula, where no interpreter program currently exists.
 - c. Agencies have been subsidizing the operations of this service for years, while serving more people every year.

Sandy Burd

From: kasiatim [kasiatim@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 5:05 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: UA funding

Dear Senator Hoffman,

I believe it is very important to fund the University of Alaska system so that it can expand in health care and other educational fields important to Alaskans.

I believe we have a much better chance of keeping out bright young men and women in Alaska if the University system offers them more options in these vital areas.

Please consider using your position to help expand the UA system. This would truly be an investment which will pay off in the future both for students and the state.

Sincerely,

Tim Spengler
Juneau

Sandy Burd

From: James Atti [James_Atti@bethel.uaf.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 3:51 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: SB 106

I would like to support SB 106 to fund Community Health Clinics.
Our Bethel Family Clinic is an option from the Hospital for our health and medical center.
My family of six are seen at the clinic for our basic medical needs.
The Bethel Family Clinic should have some financial assistance to better serve the community and expand on our needs. Bethel has seen growth in the past years and medical needs have grown.
I support the Bethel Family Clinic and being an insured employee, I would like the best health services the clinic can provide in this region.
Thank-you your support,

James Atti
P.O. Box 2714
Bethel, Alaska 99559

Sandy Burd

From: Marilyn Kasmar [MarilynK@alaskapca.org]
 Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 4:17 PM
 To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
 Subject: Testimony for State Funding for Alaska's Community Health Centers

4/11/07

Greetings.

My name is Marilyn Kasmar and I am the Executive Director of the Alaska Primary Care Association. We have as members all of Alaska's community health centers and a number of other safety net providers and supporting organizations. I am speaking in support of \$2.3 million dollars in state funding for community health centers in Alaska.

You know by now that 24 Community Health Center organizations- both tribal and non-tribal- provide access to health care (medical, dental and behavioral health) for over 80,000 Alaskans of all ethnic backgrounds and social situations at 115 sites around the state. This is 1/8 of the state's population. You know the program has received the highest possible rating from the OMB on the expectmore.gov website. You've heard that Alaska is one of only 14 states that doesn't provide any direct funding for CHCs. You've been asked by Senators Murkowski and Stevens to step up to the plate. You know these sites see anyone, even if they have no insurance or money- they are truly an oasis for people of any age- including the elderly- to turn to in time of need. And by now, you know that CHCs are well-run, efficient health care homes.

You've also heard some of the ways that CHCs save Alaska money. For example-

- CHCs save Medicaid 30% in annual spending per beneficiary- \$10.3 million annually. State funding for primary care could increase these savings. A 20% increase in number of CHC Medicaid patients could potentially save Alaska \$2 million
- Alaska spends \$32 million annually on unnecessary ER visits. With state funding support, CHCs can divert inappropriate ER visits, that should be seen in a primary care setting, to CHCs. 2000 unnecessary ER visits in Alaska redirected to CHCs could potentially save \$1.3 million. 4000 unnecessary ER visits redirected to CHCs could potentially save \$2.6 million

These sites need your help.

- Operational costs at CHCs in Alaska have risen over 10% per year in the past 4 years
- Federal funding has remained static
- A number of communities have do not yet have centers, but federal funding for new starts in Alaska has dried up
- There's so much more these sites could do, with more funding

4/11/2007

You've heard from a number of people in tourism education, social services and other industries and programs. I must point out that a great number of the people who work in these industries do not have health insurance benefits. Community health centers provide services that help Alaskans to get and stay healthy and remain productive. Your support of the CHCs will help them to provide quality health care services to the workforce of these other industries in the 115 communities that they serve.

Community Health Centers and the Alaskans who need and use them, need and deserve your support. Please fund the \$2.3 million dollar request for Alaska's Community Health Centers.

Thank you.

Marilyn W. Kasmar, RNC, MBA
Executive Director
Alaska Primary Care Association

907-929-2725 ph 907-929-2734 fax
907-227-4104 cell IM Name:alaskamarilyn@hotmail.com

903 W Northern Lights Blvd, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99503
www.alaskapca.org

"Uncompromising in the pursuit of access to primary care for all Alaskans"

April 9, 2007

TO: ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

I came to Alaska over 30 years ago and was so enamored by what I saw that I never left. I have worked as a pilot for most of my time in Alaska so I have been privileged to see a lot more of our state than the average Alaskan. I have lived and worked on the North Slope and would far prefer to see ANWR remain undeveloped so I resent the state funding lobbying efforts to open ANWR. By the same token I think it is extremely short sighted for the state to reduce funding for tourism marketing. I enjoy sharing the beauty of our state with visitors and appreciate the fact that they are a "renewable resource". Without exception, the people I fly are in awe of so much of what we tend to take for granted. They share stories and photos with family and friends which only attracts more business, all of which has minimal impact on our environment. I strongly urge you to use some of the funds from the cruise ship head tax to market Alaska far and wide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Post", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Post
Box 271
Talkeetna AK 99676

April 9, 2007

My family (wife and 5 children) have been supported by tourism for the last 10 years. I strongly support the State of Alaska re-investing in Alaska's future by providing money for a strong marketing campaign aimed at bringing visitors to Alaska.

Thank you,

Todd Condon
(907)733-2218

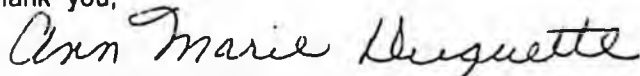
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Condon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

April 8, 2007

Living on the East coast most of my adult life, I never thought I would be living in Alaska. Back in 1990 my dad and I took a vacation to Alaska and enjoyed all the tourist attractions which included a flight to McKinley. I was so impressed with the beauty of Alaska that I ended up moving here and working at Mt. McKinley Base camp for 10 years. That gave me a great opportunity to meet people from all over the world.

In my opinion Alaska is one of the most beautiful places in the world and we need to get this message out. This is a win-win situation. Tourists spread the word and the state will benefit from all the money the tourists spend.

Thank you,

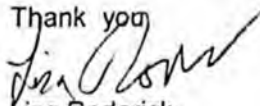
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Marie Duquette".

Anne Marie Duquette "Base Camp Annie"
(907)733-5505

April 8, 2007

I have watched Talkeetna grow into a thriving healthy community. This has been due to tourism. I am in strong support of the State contributing towards a healthy marketing budget to draw visitors to our state where they spend their money and create jobs. Tourism is competitive and Alaska needs to be heard to be seen.

Thank you



Lisa Roderick
(907)733-4263

April 9, 2007

I support the State of Alaska budgeting money for the marketing of Alaska tourism. I see this as a smart move for the State. Tourism brings dollars and jobs to all levels of business in Alaska, including the state.

Thank you,

Daniel Doty
(907)733-2272

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daniel Doty".

FAX

Date April 11, 2007

Number of pages including cover sheet 2

TO: *Senate Finance
Committee*

FROM: *City of Kwethluk
General Delivery
Kwethluk, Alaska 99621*

Phone

Phone *(907) 757-6022*

Fax Phone *(907)465-2187*

Fax Phone *(907) 757-6497*

CC: *Kwethluk City Council
File*

REMARKS: Urgent For your review Reply ASAP Please Comment

Good Luck in making this important decision, my trust and faith in your ability to make the right decision for the community residents of the State of Alaska, is placed by virtue to your belief in the system you have chosen to uphold by your oath of office.

CITY OF KWETHLUK
PO BOX 50
KWETHLUK, ALASKA 99621
(907) 757-6022 PH (907) 7757-6497 FAX

Senate Finance Committee;

April 11, 2007

CC: Mr. David Epchook – Mayor
Kwethluk City Councilmembers

Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee;

The community members and all rural area constituents have placed their trust and your promises during election time to have their votes cast to you and now the rural residents and the Kwethluk City Council on behalf of its community members urge each of you to keep the Revenue Sharing in the State Operating Budget.

Alaska is the richest state in the U.S. and should not keep cutting basic services to its residents.

In the past the Kwethluk City Council had to suffer through Administration closures and laying off the Village Police Officers due to local budget constraints.

Life, safety and the welfare of our community members were put on jeopardy, due to the State of Alaska turning its back on the rural native residents.

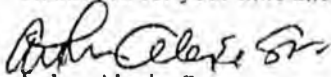
Look at the year and tell me that I am not a second class resident, we are the population that suffers the most when the Great State of Alaska decides through its elected Legislative and Senate governing body to put basic services needs in harms way.

Liabilities increase when the State of Alaska decides to remove necessity needs to its residents, more revenue is used when self made disaster is placed on our citizens, which in the long run is not healthy for the State of the Union.

We are continuing to struggle today as we did 50 years ago and much more due to evident cost of living increase every year, living isn't getting easier, however the Revenue Sharing to municipalities is very helpful to us because it assists our operating budget costs.

Doi for now,

Thank you for your time and help in our time of need.



Arthur Alexic, Sr.
City Manager
City of Kwethluk

Date: April 11, 2007
To: Legislative Office *JK*
From: Gil Gutierrez *JK*
Subject: Closure of Department of Labor Glennallen Job Service Office

We object to the closure of the Glennallen Job Service Office for the following reasons:

The Copper River Valley is bounded by the Alaska and Talkeetna Mountain Ranges and the Denali Borough to the north, Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and Canada to the east. Thompson Pass in the Chugach Range to the south, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to the west. This vast region includes the Wrangell-St. Elias Mountains, which has nine of the 16 highest mountain peaks in North America. The Copper River, one of the major rivers on the continent, has its headwaters at the base of the Wrangell Mountains and dissects the region, flowing 250 miles to the Gulf of Alaska near Cordova.

In the 2000 census, the region has a population of 3,120, up from 2,569 in 1990. The major population centers include Glennallen, Copper Center, and Kenny Lake, communities situated near the junctions of major highways, or with access to recreational resources. There are also the major shopping and service centers of the area. Each of these communities has approximately 500 persons in their loosely defined boundaries.

The only State Office that can be used to serve this population for Job search, employment assistance, and resume writing is in the Job service Office. However, the office does other things such as being the single point of contact for employers from throughout the state and for construction, mining, oil and tourism companies.

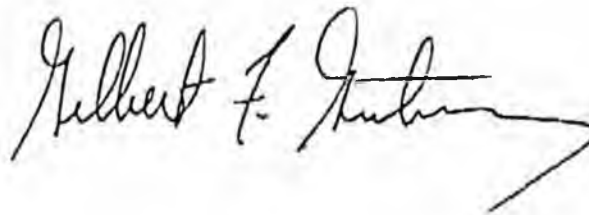
Copper River Native association has a Vocational- Educational program that is presently implementing training programs for high school students and career counseling. Underemployed due to lack of skills and unemployed residents of this area. The programs that we are implementing will lead to certification and employment in the areas mentioned above.

We do need a window to the employers that are actively recruiting and this window is provided by the Job Service. When you shut this office down our residents will be forced to drive to Valdez or Anchorage at an expense they may not be able to afford.

We do not have the access to computers that people in Anchorage or Valdez has. We live in the midst of distressed communities as defined by the Department of Commerce. Many households do not have computers for Job searching or employment information needed to get a job.

The Job Service Office is a lifeline into the State website open to the public of this area. To shut it down is to discriminate and treat this area differently by denying service to the population of this area.

We categorically oppose closure of the Glennallen Job Service Office.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gilbert F. Johnson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned centrally on the page.

April 11, 2007

Testimony of Robert Wilkinson
on Behalf of Keeping Open
Glennallen Employment Service Office
CSHB 95 State Operating Budget

- I am Robert A. Wilkinson and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Copper Valley Electric Association which serves a large geographic area in Eastern Interior, mostly along the Glenn and Richardson Highways.
- The purpose of my testimony is to request that the proposed elimination of the Glennallen Employment Center be restored to the FY08 Operating Budget.
- This one person office performs many vital services to more than a dozen communities in the unorganized Borough.
- Justifying the closure of this important office based upon providing services over the internet makes little sense. In this large rural area where seasonal and subsistence lifestyles are common in the unemployed workforce, and where a majority of residents do not own computers never mind have internet access capable of running the State's Alex-Sys, the elimination of the Employment Center will result in increased costs to the Region's Employers for job recruiting and will make the process of looking for work frustrating and more difficult.
- With respect to my organization, the elimination of the Employment Center will increase our costs while at the same time make future employment searches more difficult.
- I urge the Committee to restore funding for the Glennallen Employment Center to the FY08 Operating Budget for this important public service.
- Thank you for listening to my testimony.

ALL ALASKA

PEDIATRIC
PARTNERSHIP

3RD MEDICAL GROUP * ALASKA NATIVE CHILDREN'S CENTER * ALASKA REGIONAL HOSPITAL
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT PROVIDENCE * FAIRBANKS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
MAT-SU REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
CENTRAL PENINSULA HOSPITAL * NORTH STAR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM

April 11, 2007

RE: Funding for Community Health Centers

Senate Finance Committee
Co-Chairs Senator Lyman Hoffman and Senator Bert Steadman
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Senators:

Please invest \$2.3 million in the health care of our children and families.

The 115 Community Health Center (CHC) delivery sites in Alaska are in need of \$2.3 million to offset the high costs of providing access to primary care to over 80,000 Alaskan patients, many who are uninsured or underinsured. CHCs provide a medical home for many children, the place where they receive immunizations, school physicals and regular care. The CHCs have sliding fee scales to foster responsibility but do not turn patients away. CHCs are extremely cost-effective; save state Medicaid dollars and lower high cost emergency room visits.

Please introduce an amendment for \$2.3 million to invest in Alaskans.

AAPP is a unique public private partnership committed to all Alaskan children since 1995 that creates safe places to grow working relationships to move positive decisions forward. We bring institutional perspectives to exchange ideas and develop collaborative approaches to enhance, not diminish Alaska's pediatric services.

PO Box 230567 ANCHORAGE, AK 99523 VOICE: 907-580-3180 FAX: 907-580-2435 www.a2p2.com

Our current areas of focus include expansion of behavioral health services, increasing pediatric sub-specialty providers and sharing institutional best practices. We promote medical homes and access for children as we know that investing in regular preventive care for children gives them an excellent foundation to be successful students, productive workers and involved citizens.

If I can provide additional information, please contact me at mary.grisco@elmendorf.af.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mary Grisco', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mary Grisco, MPA
Executive Director

ALL ALASKA

PEDIATRIC
PARTNERSHIP

3RD MEDICAL GROUP * ALASKA NATIVE CHILDREN'S CENTER * ALASKA REGIONAL HOSPITAL
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT PROVIDENCE * FAIRBANKS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
MAT-SU REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
CENTRAL PENINSULA HOSPITAL * NORTH STAR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Via fax

April 10, 2007

RE: HB 95 & HB 96
Senate Finance Committee
Co-Chairs Senator Lyman Hoffman and Senator Bert Steadman
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Senators:

We appreciate this opportunity to provide our brief comments regarding funding for services and programs important for kids.

We support

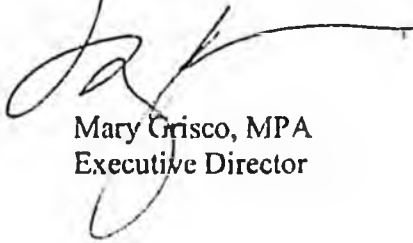
- *Behavioral health grants for \$3.2 million;
- *Bring The Kids Home community/school services for \$1.7 million;
- *Continued investing in Infant Learning Program for \$300,000;
- *Continuing the diagnostic team work for FASD for \$696,800;
- *Keeping behavioral health clinicians at McLaughlin and Fairbanks Youth Facilities for \$273,100;
- *Adding \$500,000. for autism diagnostic services.

AAPP is a unique public private partnership committed to all Alaskan children since 1995 that creates safe places to grow working relationships to move positive decisions forward. We bring institutional perspectives to exchange ideas and develop collaborative approaches to enhance, not diminish Alaska's pediatric services. Our current areas of focus include expansion of behavioral health services, increasing pediatric sub-specialty providers and sharing institutional best practices.

PO Box 230567 ANCHORAGE, AK 99523 VOICE: 907-580-3180 FAX: 907-580-2435 www.a2p2.com

If I can provide additional information, please contact me at
mary.grisco@elmendorf.af.mil.

Sincerely,



Mary Crisco, MPA
Executive Director

Sandy Burd

From: Doug Bowen [fourreds@xyz.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 12:15 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Fred Dyson
Subject: small charter school funding

Dear Senators

My name is Janet Bowen and I am a parent of both a current student and graduate of Fireweed Academy here in Homer Alaska. I am also the Administrative Specialist/Outreach Coordinator for Fireweed.

I understand Senator Huggins, with support from Senator Elton recently put \$200,000 for small charters schools into the base education budget. This would be great for the small schools to know that funding would automatically come up every year rather than have to be requested every year. While the amount of money to each school that shares it is not huge-it is crucial to each school. Fireweed Academy uses it to fund our one and only aide position.

I strongly support of this addition of this money and hope it remains in the budget as your negotiations and discussions continue in the Senate Finance Committee and Conference Committee. With the ongoing concerns regarding education funding and the already inequitable funding for small charter school, this money remains critical to our children's education.

Thank you so much for your support

Janet Bowen
PO Box 1642
Homer Alaska

Sandy Burd

From: robert_b@akexec.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 2:05 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

This week the Senate Finance Committee is adding amendments to the university's budget. As it stands, the House and Senate have not funded the university at a level that will even cover its fixed costs. This is particularly disturbing because university fixed costs as well as extra money for engineering, nurses, dental hygienists and construction managers could all be covered with savings in the university's budget. Unfortunately, the Senate took the savings and left the university with a net shortfall against fixed costs of \$3.6 million. Common sense says this situation is not realistic. Please support UA for the benefit of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,
Robert Bulmer
821 N Street
Suite 204
Anchorage, AK 99501

Sandy Burd

From: Dianne Milke [fndlm5@uaf.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 3:10 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Word of Thanks

Attachments: fndlm5.vcf



fndlm5.vcf (403 B)

On behalf of Chancellor Steve Jones, I am forwarding the following:

Dear Senator Hoffman,

As you finalize your recommendations for the FY08 operating budget, I urge you to fully support the Board of Regents' request. I appreciate the fact that fixed costs are covered, but want to emphasize the importance of fully covering the retirement cost increases as well. UA has also requested funding for programs in high demand job areas at UAF, especially in dental hygiene and community health aides, both impacting the rural areas of the state. Your support is very much appreciated and necessary to fulfill our mission as the state's university.

Again, thank you for recognizing the critical role that your university system plays in assuring our state's future economic and social prosperity.

Steve Jones

Sandy Burd

From: David Modde [DavidM@EATribes.net]

Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 3:35 PM

To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman

Subject: CHC

Community Health Centers are not only a cost effective method of medical care delivery, it is the only primary care for nearly 80,000 individuals, both native and non-native. Without additional funding, these services will not be able to be delivered efficiently or effectively.

Please work to include funding for CHC's in the budget.

Thank you, David Modde

Sandy Burd

From: bbolson@kodiak.alaska.edu
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 3:39 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

UA's fixed costs, such as PRS/TRS increases and cost of living salary adjustments, increased utilities costs, as well as high demand degree and certificate programs in Welding, Nursing Assistants, Nursing, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Please support Sen. Thomas's amendment to adequately fund UA.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Barbara Bolson
117 Benny Benson Drive
Kodiak, AK 99615

Page 1



Alaska State Legislature

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____

 Committee name
 Committee on HB 95-- 2008 OPERATING BUDGET
 _____, dated APRIL 11, 2007

 Bill/Subject

It is my understanding that through the subcommittee on Commerce, Community and Economic Development, an appropriation of \$300,000 has been included for the Alaska Legal Services Corporation. I want to testify today in support of that appropriation, and to thank those responsible for its inclusion in the budget. The ALSC is a critical component in our legal system, providing resources for lower income families and individuals across the State to educate themselves about the law and to obtain legal representation in civil cases involving a range of issues, including family law, residential landlord-tenant disputes, consumer law and probate cases. As a private attorney working in the Mat-Su Valley, I see the strong need for these services growing exponentially with the increasing population here. When I spoke with ALSC representative Erick Cordero a couple years ago about the potential for staffing an ALSC office here in Palmer or Wasilla, he was optimistic, but that was before the State cut its funding of Legal Services from \$1.2 million to \$0 for the next two years. I frankly can't fathom how this vital organization was cut from the budget. The need for legal representation in civil cases is paramount because pro se litigants are often at a loss to understand their rights and the rights of others under applicable laws in the first place, have no where to go to receive some modicum of legal education in the applicable area, and do not know the rules of civil procedure even if they manage to pursue or defend their rights or interests in court. This, in turn, puts even greater burdens on our judges and staff to evaluate and manage such cases. I am sure Senator Huggins and others there are already aware of the need for family law assistance here in the Valley. But in my practice here as a plaintiff's attorney, I am seeing more and more problems in other areas too such as consumer fraud, unreasonable denials by health insurers, and violations of the Uniform Residential Landlord-Tenant Act, as well as more and more inquiries about . . .

Signed:

Christopher Canterbury
 Testifier CHRISTOPHER CANTERBURY

Representing (Optional)

816 SOUTH COBB STREET; PALMER, AK 99645

Address

(907) 376-8185

Phone number

Page 2



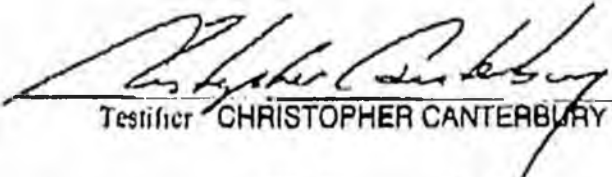
Alaska State Legislature

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Please enter into the record my testimony in the _____
 Committee name
 Committee on HB 95-- 2008 OPERATING BUDGET dated APRIL 11, 2007
 Bill/Subject

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

probate matters, such as drafting wills or appointing conservators for the aging population. Indeed, instead of cutting funding for ALSC, I believe we need to increase funding. I strongly support doing whatever it takes to see ALSC staff a local office in Mat-Su. Right now, I know ALSC is able to conduct clinics about once every two months here in Palmer to educate citizens on child custody and divorce issues. I know they are able to do twice as many in Anchorage, as well as additional clinics such as landlord-tenant clinics. Many of the local citizens who need that education and legal representation cannot drive to Anchorage for those services. It is not enough for the State to finally add resources for the long-suffering situation at the Palmer courthouse. I am pleased to see recognition of the strong need for these related support services at ALSC. I urge the legislature to continue attempts to further the pursuit of fairness and justice for the State's citizens by approving the proffered appropriation to ALSC.

Signed. 
 Testifier CHRISTOPHER CANTERBURY

Representing (Optional)
816 SOUTH COBB STREET; PALMER, AK 99645
 Address
907-376-8185
 Phone number

HB95

April 11, 2007

Please keep our Job centers open!

I have been a client of Delta Job center for three years now; I have found the needs and one on one assistance that are helpful to me to for job searching. Being I and many other people don't have access to a computer or not familiar with computers.

It would be a massive loss if were not to have our Job Centers.

Thank You

Angela Juleff

Subject: HB 95

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to provide information relevant to HB 95. I understand this bill in its present form would remove funding from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development resulting in the closure of the local Job Center in Delta Junction.

I am an education counselor who provides career planning services at Fort Greely, Alaska. I work for Chugach Alutiiq, Joint Venture, an Alaskan corporation providing contract services to the US Army. Previous to this job I was employed at the Delta Job Center, 2005 C Street, Delta Junction, during the period 2002-2003.

I am speaking for neither my employer nor the government, but rather as a resident of this small rural community in Alaska's interior.

In my opinion, closing the Delta Job Center could result in fewer local Alaskan residents applying for the many jobs that have opened in this area since the Fort Greely build-up and our community's recent economic rebound.

I suspect more jobs will go to out-of-state applicants if the assistance of the job office is no longer available. One hundred miles to Fairbanks is simply too far for many job-seekers to travel looking for work in their own communities and access to this base is restricted. The availability of an employment security specialist and the office's half dozen common-user computers with internet access will also be a great loss to this community.

During the course of my duties in career planning I have referred many clients to the local Job Center and I believe its closure would have a detrimental effect on the local economy.

//original signed//
Bruce Grossmann
Education Counselor

1535 Healy Court
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737
(907) 895-1910

*Delta Community Library
Box 229 2291 Deborah Street
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737
907.895.4102*

April 11, 2007

Re: HB 95 Operating Budget

To: Senate Finance Committee, Fax 907-465-2187

Dear Committee Members:

This testimony is in support of the Alaska Job Center Network, in particular of the Center in Delta Junction.

This outstanding service needs to be maintained so both our long time and newest residents can continue to have access to the latest information on statewide employment opportunities.

I often refer job seekers to our local Center because of limited Internet access here in the library. I have found the staff to be knowledgeable and helpful to applicants, and the quality of service and dedication is extraordinary. We simply do not have the space or the staff to provide the level of service of a Job Center.

I encourage you to reconsider any budget cuts to this vital program. Having a Job Center in Delta Junction not only increases the positive profile of our community, but promotes a positive image of the State of Alaska for its constituents as well.

Sincerely,

Joyce McCombs

Joyce McCombs, Director
Delta Community Library



City of Delta Junction

P.O. Box 229, Delta Junction, Alaska 99737
 Ph 907-895-4656 Fax 907-895-4375
 www.ci.delta-junction.ak.us
 city@ci.delta-junction.ak.us

Welcome to the Friendly Frontier

April 11, 2007

Comment on HB95

via fax#907-465-2187

(The Delta LIO is closed all this week)

The City of Delta Junction would request that HB95 be amended to include continued funding for the operation of the Delta Job Center for at least 2 days a week.

There are over 4,000 persons residing within 30 miles of the Delta Job Center and with the economic activity generated by the Missile Defense at Fort Greely, Range construction by US Army Alaska, the Pogo Gold Mine and others, there is a continuing need for workers in the Delta area.

Closing the current office would greatly disadvantage local Delta workers in finding local employment.

Many Deltans are not computer experts and need both extended access to internet connected computers to find and apply for jobs and need help and advice from trained Job Center staff.

Sincerely,

Peter S. Hallgren
 Administrator

Donna Thompson
 Financial Officer
 Linda Burdick
 Administrative Asst.
 Joe DeWitt
 City Attorney
 Lamar Collins
 City Council



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on Budget 08 dated 4/11/07
Bill/Subject

Please maintain funding for Alaska legal services. They help alot of children in Alaska. They are necessary for low income parents who are trying to secure custody of their children.

Funding should be increased for this agency so there could be more attorney's to help low income Alaskans with Civil matters, such as Alaskan Native and Claims, child custody, Domestic Violence, etc.

Signed: Nancy L. et. / Chief Paul B Theodore
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 521612
Address

232-1387
Phone number

HB95

FIELDS HOUSE LTD

PO BOX 1013

DELTA JUNCTION AK 99737-1013

907-895-1950

11 APRIL 2007

PER HB95:

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to ask that the Alaska State Dept of Labor's Job Service located in Delta Junction NOT be closed.

I have utilized this office on numerous occasions and have hired out of this office twice. I have never used the Fairbanks or Tok office, and when needed, have hired locally by word of mouth.

I am the President of the DELTA REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, and economically, I feel this is not a smart move on the state's part at this present time.

The office is needed, and closing this particular office now, when the missile base is not completed, is an immature move which will not benefit either Delta or Tok. Many people I talk to have never utilized the Tok office, and would rather drive to Fairbanks to use the office up there.

Keep it open 3 days a week if you have to, but by no means close it for good.

Thank you very much.

Cordially,

Stephen L Fields
Fields House LTD
Owner



Catholic
Social Services

Refugee Assistance Program

3710 East 20th Avenue - Anchorage, Alaska 99508 • (907) 276-5590 • fax: (907) 279-5539
email: catholicsocialservices@cssalaska.org • www.cssalaska.org

April 11, 2007

To The Attention of Senate Finance Committee:

Our Office of Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services heard a tragic news,
"Possible closing of Delta Job Center."

Key elements of RAIS / CSS are to welcome the strangers by empowering all refugees,
immigrants, and displaced persons to share in the freedom, justice, and quality of our
society.

The primary goal is to promote employment and self-sufficiency by providing a bridge
for clients from former life experience to the new skills required for success in the United
States.

This is where Delta Job Center plays a huge role in helping our community.

Delta Job Center does a great job with helping clients do their résumés, write letters to
employers, explain how to use computer, search for employment on web, explain what
skills are needed for specific positions, and the list just goes on.

With out this service in Delta we will be stuck in a mud hole, if there is any sympathy
toward our community, please don't be too haste to close the Delta Job Center.

We strongly believe that the committee can find a way-out of this crisis and Delta Job
Center will be able to continue providing quality service to our community.

Sincerely, staff of RAIS / CSS

Vera Gorban

Svetlana Kravets

Yelena Berezhkov

V. Gorban
Svetlana Kravets
Yelena Berezhkov



Sandy Burd

From: ffsdk@uaf.edu
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 11:30 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Support an amendment to adequately fund UA.

Sincerely,
Sonja Koukel
3032 Vintage Blvd. Ste. 104
Juneau, AK 99801

Sandy Burd

From: ASJET11@uaa.alaska.edu
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 11:47 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget.

Support an amendment to adequately fund UA and make UA accountable for funds. Any private educational business must be accountable. I've watched inefficiencies year after year without lessons learned.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
joan tovsen
PO Box 242211
Anchorage, AK 99524

DELTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



April 11, 2007

RE: HB-95

The Delta Chamber of Commerce opposes the closing of the rural job centers, particularly, Delta Junction Job Center. With all the construction taking place at Ft. Greely and the surrounding area, Delta needs the services the local job center offers.

Many citizens of Delta Junction do not have computers, telephone or internet service and many do not know how to use computers. While the Delta Community Library has internet access and public computers, they are in such demand that sometimes the wait to use them is far longer than anyone should be expected to wait. The mobile job centers do not provide the consistent services that local job centers provide.

The citizens of Delta Junction deserve the services of a local job center and the chamber strongly opposes the closing of the much-needed Delta Job Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Peterson".

Brenda Peterson
Executive Director

Sandy Burd

From: jeane@gci.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 6:27 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Support an amendment to adequately fund UA.

Sincerely,
Jeane Breinig
4910 Hartman Circle
Anchorage, AK 99507

Sandy Burd

From: george.riley@acsalaska.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 6:41 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Support an amendment to adequately fund UA.

Sincerely,
Roberta Taylor
PO Box 64
Ester, AK 99725

Sandy Burd

From: windysea@xyz.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 7:15 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Support an amendment to adequately fund UA.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Cooney Donohue
PO Box 3694
Homer, AK 99603-3694

Sandy Burd

From: mkhughes@acsalaska.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 7:22 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Support an amendment to adequately fund UA.

Sincerely,
Mary Hughes
1592 Coffey Ln
Anchorage, AK 99501-4977

Sandy Burd

From: snowyowl_alaska@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 7:27 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Support an amendment to adequately fund UA.

Sincerely,
Janet Sperber
6207 Laurel St.
Anchorage, AK 99507

Sandy Burd

From: aeker@thealaskaclub.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 7:44 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Support an amendment to adequately fund UA.

Sincerely,
Andrew Eker
1592 Coffey Lane
Anchorage, AK 99501

Sandy Burd

From: pspbw@uaa.alaska.edu
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 7:53 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Support an amendment to adequately fund UA.

Sincerely,
Penelope Wingo
PO Bx 299003
Wasilla, AK 99629

Sandy Burd

From: sharon.hall@uaf.edu
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 9:28 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed cos's

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Support an amendment to adequately fund UA.

Sincerely,
sharon hall
2323 meadow lane
juneau, AK 99801

Sandy Burd

From: tsirc2@uas.alaska.edu
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 3:15 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Support an amendment to adequately fund UA.

UA is a wonderful establishment, and currently the primary options for Alaska residents to attend in-State education and training programs. Adequate funding for the University of Alaska is essential to the future of Alaskan education. Don't shortchange this institution. It would be like shooting yourself in the foot.

Sincerely,
Tara Connolly Prosser
1260 A. Millar St.
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Sandy Burd

From: rabbage@acsalaska.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 7:59 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Support an amendment to adequately fund UA.

Sincerely,
Geri Rabbage
438 Sundew Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99712

Sandy Burd

From: Sherry McWhorter [sherry_mcwhorter@usw.salvationarmy.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 7:31 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Senate budget priority items

Sherry McWhorter
6140 Prosperity Drive
Anchorage, AK 99504-3267

April 11, 2007

The Honorable Lyman F. Hoffman
Alaska Senate
Alaska State Senate
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Hoffman:

Please fund the following priority budget items. These funds are needed to sustain current levels of human services or to deal with the growing needs of the elderly, disabled, families and communities in Alaska.

Services for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders. Maintain \$125,000. People with Alzheimer's disease as their primary diagnosis are not eligible for Medicaid. These funds provide support for them and their caretaker families.

Keep the Elders Home. Add \$1.25 million. These funds will provide a package of home and community-based services designed to keep the elderly in their homes and out of expensive nursing home care.

Sincerely,

Sherry McWhorter
339-3433

This message has been verified by CapwizXC as authentic and sent by this individual.
Authentication ID: [KQG46Ux6]

Sandy Burd

From: Sherry McWhorter [sherry_mcwhorter@usw.salvationarmy.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 7:29 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Budget -- health and social services

Sherry McWhorter
6140 Prosperity Drive
Anchorage, AK 99504-3267

April 11, 2007

The Honorable Lyman F. Hoffman
Alaska Senate
Alaska State Senate
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Hoffman:

Please support funding for substance abuse treatment services across Alaska at at least the same level as last year. Please do NOT reduce funding for substance abuse treatment.

Behavioral Health Grants for Treatment and Prevention Services -- Maintain \$3.2 million. Behavioral Health Grants fund mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services. These funds will continue the current level of service.

Detox Services for Anchorage. Add \$300,000. These funds are needed to strengthen the substance abuse continuum of care and provide alternatives to the inappropriate use of API.

Sincerely,

Sherry McWhorter
339-3433

This message has been verified by CapwizXC as authentic and sent by this individual.
Authentication ID: {e8205PVB}

Sandy Burd

From: Bowen Katya [kbowen@bhs1.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 5:13 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: UAA Budget Proposal

Dear Senator Hoffman:

I am a graduate of UAA (1989). Although I no longer live in Alaska, I have a nephew who does and who currently attends UAA. I can attest that my education at UAA has been a rock upon which I have built a good career, and a good life.

Having lived in Alaska, and being a health professional, I cannot emphasize strongly enough the need for expansion of the health sciences programs. Unlike those of us in the lower 48, Alaska needs a strong core of health science professionals, since recruitment from the lower 48 is such a difficult proposition. Alaska is a proud state—it shouldn't have to be dependent on the good will of the lower 48 to have first-class health care professionals. The best way to ensure this is to have strong programs to educate the health care professionals of tomorrow. The WWAMI program expansion at the Anchorage Campus, the Nursing Core Expansion at the Anchorage Campus, the Community Health Aide Program at the College of Rural Alaska, and the Dental Program at the Tanana Valley Campus need all the support that we can give them.

Please support the UAA budget proposal. It is vital to Alaska's future.

Sincerely,
Katya L. Bowen, M.S. CCC-SLP
UAA 1989

BHS CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail communication and any attachments may contain confidential and privileged information for the use of the designated recipients named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error and that any review, disclosure, dissemination, distribution or copying of it or its contents is prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify Berkshire Health Systems immediately by e-mail at postmaster@bhs1.org and destroy all copies of this communication and any attachments.

Sandy Burd

From: Anna Sappah [annasappah@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 10:24 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Budget priorities for vulnerable Alaskans

Anna Sappah
1711 Logan Street
Anchorage, AK 99508-3239

April 11, 2007

The Honorable Lyman F. Hoffman
Alaska Senate
Alaska State Senate
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Hoffman:

Please fund the following priority budget items. These funds are needed to sustain current levels of human services or to deal with the growing needs of the elderly, disabled, families and communities in Alaska.

Behavioral Health Grants for Treatment and Prevention Services. Maintain \$3.2 million. Behavioral Health Grants fund mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services. These funds will continue the current level of service.

Detox Services for Anchorage. Add \$300,000. These funds are needed to strengthen the substance abuse continuum of care and provide alternatives to the inappropriate use of API.

Detox Services for Fairbanks. Add \$500,000. These funds are needed to operate a new enhanced detox facility being developed through a community partnership.

FASD Program. Maintain \$696,800. These funds will replace expiring federal funds and will ensure continuation of the work of the FASD Diagnostic Teams and other educational efforts.

As a person in recovery from addiction to heroin and other drugs, I cannot stress to you enough the need for available appropriate treatment services for those who suffer the disease of addiction. I was able to undergo quality treatment in Anchorage 12 years ago. I have been clean ever since.

I am now an asset in my community rather than a drain on its resources. My children have been able to grow up with a mother who modeled responsible behavior. They will hopefully be the first generation in my family to be out of the cycle of addiction.

Please give other families the same chance. Help people get help.

You can make a positive difference that will have a long term effect in Alaska.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anna Sappah
(907) 277-8796

This message has been verified by CapwizXC as authentic and sent by this individual.
Authentication ID: {luv33SQ4}

Sandy Burd

From: Jessica Podruchny [jessica_podruchny@jsd.k12.ak.us]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 8:30 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Interpreter Referral Line

I am writing to you in regard to the Interpreter Referral Line in Juneau. Both Fairbanks and Anchorage have this service for the deaf as well. Interpreter Referral Line allows the deaf client to arrange interpreting services for their appointments ahead of time. This allows interpreters to arrange their schedules appropriately, as well as assure that the deaf client will have quality services. The interpreter will not only be skilled, but professional.

I lived in North Dakota briefly and I can tell you from the experience of my friends that IRL is a major convenience. In ND there is no IRL. The deaf client must contact an interpreter through relay to see if she will be available. If she is not, then there is a chain of interpreters that must be contacted to see who is available. It is completely unorganized and the deaf person cannot be sure who will be providing their services.

IRL fills the need for organization. One person is the point man to be contacted and contact interpreters to find the right person to provide the services needed.

Jessica Podruchny
Deaf Education Interpreter
Riverbend Elementary

Sandy Burd

From: fssmg4@uaf.edu
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 8:41 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Support an amendment to adequately fund UA. Funding the University at a level that allows for operation pays back big in the long run, education is important and Alaska's youth need it.

Sincerely,
Skye Greer
PO Box 751016
Fairbanks, AK 99775-1016

Sandy Burd

From: Sharron Lobaugh [lobaugh@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 8:45 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Budget items for women, children, seniors and the disabled

Sharron Lobaugh
3340 Fritz Cove
JUNEAU, AK 99801-8507

April 11, 2007

The Honorable Lyman F. Hoffman
Alaska Senate
Alaska State Senate
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Hoffman:

Please fund the following priority budget items. These funds are needed to sustain current levels of human services or to deal with the growing needs of the elderly, disabled, families and communities in Alaska.

Behavioral Health Grants for Treatment and Prevention Services. Maintain \$3.2 million. Behavioral Health Grants fund mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services. These funds will continue the current level of service.

Bring the Kids Home (BTKH) Community Services and Training. Maintain \$1.7 million. This funding will train staff, license new services and develop school-based BTKH services.

Expand Adult Protective Services. Maintain \$213,900. These funds will expand our ability to respond to reports of harm to vulnerable adults.

Behavioral Health Clinicians for McLaughlin Youth Center and Fairbanks Youth Facility. Maintain \$273,100. These positions will provide crucial mental health and substance abuse treatment to children in juvenile detention.

Peer-Operated Services. Add \$100,000. Consumer-operated programs such as drop-in centers, outreach programs and businesses are a growing part of the behavioral health consumer movement in Alaska and have been proven effective. These funds provide a foundation for state supported, community-based services run by consumers.

Sincerely,

Sharron Lobaugh

This message has been verified by CapwizXC as authentic and sent by this individual.
Authentication ID: [73zgxwj8]

Sandy Burd

From: David Rice [drice@nwarctic.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 8:50 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: UAF Budget Shortfall

As a resident of NW Alaska I'm concerned that the UAF operating and priority programs budgets are not being fully funded. I hope that you can realize how important higher education is for all Alaskans, especially those in rural Alaska who are most affected by budget shortfalls.

Although I do not work for UAF, but I do work in education. I know first hand how educational programs can improve lives.

I would urge you to support the full funding of the UAF budget. Thank you.

David Rice
(907)442-3733
Kotzebue, AK

Sandy Burd

From: sndcw@email.alaska.edu
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 8:23 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Support an amendment to adequately fund UA. The way to a strong economy is through a skilled workforce. UA can provide that training, but it needs the funding to compete with the institutions outside. If UA does not offer competitive wages to its faculty and staff they will go somewhere that will and Alaska will suffer from the loss. Please fund UA and keep the students in Alaska by providing quality education.

Sincerely,
Dawn Wall
4772 Glasgow #1
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Sandy Burd

From: tarraq@hotmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 8:24 AM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

TO: Senate Subcommittee on the University

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Support an amendment to adequately fund UA.

Sincerely,
Lawrence Kaplan
PO Box 82003
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Sandy Burd

From: andml1@uaa.alaska.edu
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 4:14 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Support an amendment to adequately fund UA.

Sincerely,
Dian Lo Dolce
PO Box 67-1428
Chugiak, AK 99567

Sandy Burd

From: roberta.stell@uas.alaska.edu
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 4:21 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Fund UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Support an amendment to adequately fund UA.

Sincerely,
Roberta Stell
17025 Glacier Hwy
Juneau, AK 99801

Sandy Burd

From: cjearp@acsalaska.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 4:22 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Support Funding of UA's fixed costs

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

The University of Alaska is one of the most important and profitable investments for the State of Alaska.

With the leadership of President Hamilton and the commitment of past legislative funding, UA has made incredible strides in improving its existing programs and providing new programs that are desperately needed across the state.

UA's fixed costs, as well as high demand degree programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget.

Please support an amendment to adequately fund UA. Thank you kindly for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Cathy Earp
PO Box 72436
Fairbanks, AK 99707-2436

Sandy Burd

From: johnriley@acsalaska.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 4:33 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: Please fund UA's budget

Senator Lyman Hoffman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Hoffman,

Please fund UA's fixed costs. There is no vision for the future if we cut the programs that produce the workers in our highest demand degree professions such as Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management. All these programs can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Please support an amendment to adequately fund UA.

Sincerely,
John Riley
6411 Italy Circle
Anchorage, AK 99516

Sandy Burd

From: Tara Smith [tsmith@chhcare.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 3:32 PM
To: Sen. Lyda Green; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Kim Elton; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Fred Dyson
Subject: Please read, request to increase PCA Medicaid Rates
Attachments: PCA Rateincrease letter.doc

Greetings,

Please kindly read my letter and take into full consideration.
The future of Alaska's senior citizens is very important.

Thank you,

Tara Smith, ILS Director
Cornerstone Home Health
(907)586-6838
tsmith@chhcare.com

This message is intended for the sole use of the individual to whom it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the addressee you are hereby notified that you may not use, copy, disclose, or distribute to anyone the message or any information contained in the message. If you have received this message in error, please immediately advise the sender by reply email and delete this message. Thanks!



CORNERSTONE HOME HEALTH

5636 Glacier Highway, Ste. 100 Juneau, AK 99801 Phone: (907) 586-6838 Fax: (907) 586-8114

April 10, 2007

To: Majority Senate Leaders : Lyda Green, Johnny Ellis
Senate Finance Committee Members: Lyman Hoffman, Bert Stedman, Charlie Huggins, Kim Elton,
Donny Olson, Joe Thomas, Fred Dyson

Subject: Keep PCA a sustainable service - Request for increase in PCA Medicaid Rates

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to request Legislative Support For Annual Rate Readjustments, so that PCA Providers never go another 10 years without any rate increase to keep up with increasing business and compliance costs. While PCA rates were frozen from 1998 through the present, Alaska Medicaid paid hospitals and nursing homes with automatic and annual index-based rate increases every year since 1999, averaging over 3% per annum.

As our population ages and chooses to remain in Alaska, the need for in-home support services will grow as well. PCA services are often the first line of defense, after familial and community support, for seniors who require hands-on assistance to remain in their own homes. With the assistance of a PCA, seniors are able to meet their basic health needs often preventing the need for more costly medical intervention or out-of-home placement. PCA services have effectively reduced the amount of time an individual may need to spend in very costly nursing homes at the end of his or her life; however, there is a cost to the provision of PCA services as well.

I am also asking you to please consider an adjustment to the PCA rate in the FY2008 Operating Budget. Medicaid has not allowed a single payment increase in PCA rates since 1998. We are seeking a 2.5% per annum equivalent, with a raise from the 1998 rate of \$21 per hour to \$26.88 for FY2008.

The cost of providing PCA services, as with all goods and services, continues to rise annually, including workers' compensation insurance for this high-risk category of workers. In order to maintain provider participation, reimbursement rates need to keep pace with health care costs.

Please help keep Personal Care Assistance a sustainable service.

Thank you,

Tara Smith
Independent Living Services Director

Sandy Burd

From: Leslie Basham [lbasham@chhcare.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 4:38 PM
To: Sen. Lyda Green; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Kim Elton; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Fred Dyson
Subject: Subject: Please read, request to increase PCA Medicaid Rates
Attachments: CHH Letter to increase PCA Rates.doc

Greetings,

Please kindly read my letter and take into full consideration.
The future of Alaska's Senior Citizens is very important.

Thank you,

Leslie Dean-Basham
Care Coordination
Cornerstone Home Health
(907) 586-6838
fax: (907) 586-8114
lbasham@chhcare.com

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