

AK LEGISLATURE FINANCE COMMITTEES FILES 2007-2008 3183



## CORNERSTONE HOME HEALTH

5636 Glacier Hwy. Suite 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,

Leslie Dean-Basham  
Care Coordinator working with Older Alaskans and Adults with Physical Disabilities

**Sandy Burd**

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**From:** kbear104@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 5:18 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,  
Howard Morse  
1342 Medfra  
Anchorage, AK 99501

## Sandy Burd

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**From:** jbowden@acsalaska.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 5:32 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,  
Earlina Bowden  
2360 Inclination Drive  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

**Sandy Burd**

---

**From:** Teresa Ransom [transom@chhcare.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 4:27 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:** PCA Rate Increase letter  
**Attachments:** PCA Rate Increase letter.doc

Please find my attached letter in regards to PCA Rate increases. This is an issue that affects many Alaskans and the quality of care that they are able to receive in their homes.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thank you.

Teresa Ransom-Stimpfle  
Care Coordinator  
Cornerstone Home Health  
5636 Glacier Hwy, Suite 100  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 586-6838  
fax (907) 586-8114



# 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:

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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.

Teresa Ransom-Stimpfle  
Care Coordinator

# Alaska Primary Care Association

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



Honorable Lyman Hoffman  
Alaska State Capitol Room 518  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

April 10, 2007

Re: Budget Amendment Request: State Funding for Community Health Centers

Dear Co-Chairman Hoffman,

On behalf of the 24 Community Health Centers (CHCs) throughout the state, their 115 clinic delivery sites, and the 80,000 patients they treat, Alaska Primary Care Association respectfully requests a budget amendment of \$2.3 million in funding to strengthen and expand CHCs

With your rural representation, the fact that 6 CHC organizations and 22 clinic sites are located in your district, and your awareness of health care access needs in our state, we are confident that you will realize the importance of state funding support for CHCs. As you may recall, Alaska is 1 of only 14 states not yet stepping up to support this cost-efficient health care model. (As a point of comparison, Hawaii CHCs see a similar number of patients and the State of Hawaii provides \$19 million in funding.) You may also recall that CHCs received the highest rating possible by the Federal Office of Management and Budget; in fact CHCs received a score that put them in the top 10 of all programs (including non-health care related) for efficiency and quality.

You would be interested to know that the Alaska Primary Care Association has received very positive responses in both Chambers in regard to state funding support for Community Health Centers (CHCs) as it has worked to educate legislators and staff in all 60 offices. We have also been assured that the Governor would support and not veto CHC funding if it is added to the budget. There is clearly an elevated understanding of the need for state support, the savings the state would realize by strengthening and expanding CHCs, and the vital role the CHCs fill in serving Alaskans.

With a wise state investment of \$2.3 million in CHCs, the projected state Medicaid savings would potentially be \$2 million and the savings through reduced emergency room visits over \$2.5 million. CHC Medicaid patients save Medicaid 30% as compared to Medicaid patients who use other providers. The projected savings described above would be accomplished by redirecting 4000 Medicaid patients to establish CHCs as their medical homes and redirecting 4000 inappropriate ER visits to CHCs.

With the number of uninsured residents growing and the high cost of health care in Alaska, it is important that the State take advantage of this economical opportunity this year to help address the problem.

Respectfully,

Shelley S. Hughes  
Government Affairs Director

Alaska Primary Care Association  
903 W Northern Lights Blvd, Suite 200  
Anchorage, AK 99503

ph. 907-929-2722  
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[www.alaskapca.org](http://www.alaskapca.org)

# Alaska Primary Care Association

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Anchorage, AK 99503

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[www.alaskapca.org](http://www.alaskapca.org)

[alaskapca@alaskapca.org](mailto:alaskapca@alaskapca.org)



## **Alaska Primary Care Association Board of Directors**

### **RESOLUTION 2007-01**

#### **State Funding for Community Health Centers**

**WHEREAS** roughly 86,000 Alaskans live below the Alaska poverty threshold<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) estimates 19 percent or 122,000 Alaskans are uninsured; and

**WHEREAS** in 2005, Alaska's Community Health Centers provided care to 80,000 patients—an increase of more than 10,000 patients since 2004<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** Community Health Centers are committed to serving and providing quality health care to uninsured and under-insured Alaskans and to offering primary care to all Alaskans, regardless of a person's ability to pay; and

**WHEREAS** many of the Community Health Centers are the sole providers of health care in their communities and the provision of health care to community residents is necessary for maintaining sustainable communities in regard to the economy, the delivery of education, and other fundamental systems; and

**WHEREAS** a growing number of Alaskans are being added to the Medicare roster as Alaska's population ages, while at the same time private providers are increasingly denying health care services to Medicare recipients; and

**WHEREAS** Community Health Centers do not withhold health care services from Medicare patients and can provide primary care services to the seniors in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska is one of fourteen states that does not provide any direct financial assistance to Community Health Centers<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** Hawaii's Community Health Centers treat 85,000 patients annually and receive \$19 million in direct state support while Alaska's Community Health Centers treat nearly 80,000 patients annually and receive no direct state support<sup>3</sup>; and

# Alaska Primary Care Association

*"...uncompromising in the pursuit of access to primary care for all Alaskans."*



**WHEREAS** other states provide direct support in a range from \$200,000 to over \$40 million and even economically depressed states, such as Mississippi which provides \$3.5 million in state funding, have recognized the value and wise investment of the Community Health Center program<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** the revenue acquired by the sliding fee scale system used by Community Health Centers assists but does not meet the shortfall; and

**WHEREAS** Community Health Centers have encountered rising operational costs, including rising energy prices, increasing insurance rates, and higher health benefit premiums; and

**WHEREAS** the 1% rescission in the Federal Deficit Reduction Act applied to Community Health Center funding for FY 2006; and

**WHEREAS** Community Health Centers have effectively and efficiently played a central role in the health care safety-net by providing quality and cost-effective health care at a savings to the Medicaid program; and

**WHEREAS** patients who use Community Health Centers as their medical home as opposed to using other providers save Medicaid programs in various states from 22% to 33%<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska annually spends \$32 million<sup>5</sup> on inappropriate emergency room use, and the strengthening of Alaska's Community Health Centers through state support would assist in reducing this inappropriate usage; and

**WHEREAS** Community Health Centers will continue to be in demand to meet the growing need for health care in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** the communities in Alaska that have applied for New Access Point funding from the federal government to open Community Health Centers in order to provide primary care to their residents are not expected to receive such funds; and

**WHEREAS** state support would allot some funds to assist new clinics which would increase the likelihood that these clinics would acquire federal funding in the future; and

**WHEREAS** increasing operational costs, reductions in federal funding, rising Medicaid costs to the State of Alaska, reduced access to care for Medicare patients in Alaska, high rates of inappropriate emergency room use, and some primary care clinics unable to secure federal funding, coupled with the current lack of state funding support for Community Health Centers would have a detrimental effect on access to health care for many Alaskans; and

# Alaska Primary Care Association

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**WHEREAS** supplemental funding by the State of Alaska in support of Community Health Centers is consistent with the constitutional mandate outlined in Article VII of the Alaska Constitution that states that the legislature is to "provide for the promotion and protection of public health" and "provide for public welfare";

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Primary Care Association supports partial funding by the state to supplement federal funding support of Community Health Centers in order to maintain the health care safety net and provide access to health care for uninsured and under-served Alaskans.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall be the position of the Alaska Primary Care Association until it is withdrawn or modified by a subsequent resolution.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Regan Mattingly, State Affairs Coordinator  
Shelley S. Hughes, Government Affairs Director  
Marilyn Kasmar, Executive Director

DONE AND DATED this fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) day of March, in the year 2007.

SIGNED BY

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Sonia Handforth-Kome, APCA Board President

<sup>1</sup> Alaska's poverty threshold is 125% of the national poverty threshold, reflecting the higher cost of housing, fuel, and other goods and service (DIHS)

<sup>2</sup> 2004 and 2005 Alaska UDS rollup report

<sup>3</sup> State Policy Report #13. Cohen, McKinney, and Pears. November 2006. *National Association of Community Health Centers*.

<sup>4</sup> Health Services Utilization and Costs to Medicaid of AFDC Recipients [in various states] Served and Not Served by Community Health Centers. Duggar BC, et al. *Center for Health Policy Studies*. 1994.

<sup>5</sup> A Sketch of Community Health Centers, 2006 Chart Book. All figures, unless otherwise noted, come from NACHC, 2006. Based on Bureau of Primary Health Care, HRSA, DIHS, 2006 Uniform Data System. For more information, email [research@nache.com](mailto:research@nache.com).

# Alaska Primary Care Association

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



## 2006-2007 Alaska Primary Care Association Board of Directors

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND ADDRESSES	PHONE	FAX	EMAIL
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Cindy Baldwin-Kitka, Board Treasurer HRSA Manager & Business Specialist South East Alaska Regional Health Consortium 222 Tongass Drive Sitka, AK 99835	907 966 8717	907 966 8785	<a href="mailto:cindy.kitka@searhc.org">cindy.kitka@searhc.org</a>
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Beckie Noble, MS, ANP SVTHC Director Seldovia Village Tribe Health Center 880 East End Road Homer, AK 9960	907 226 2308	907 226 2230	<a href="mailto:bnoble@svtc.org">bnoble@svtc.org</a>
Andre Hines CEO Cross Road Medical Center PO Box 5 Glennallen, AK 99588	907 822 3203	907 822 5805	<a href="mailto:ahines@crossroadmc.org">ahines@crossroadmc.org</a>
Joe Klejka MD Medical Director Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation P.O. Box 287 Bethel, AK 99559	907 543 6028	907 543 6006	<a href="mailto:joe_klejka@ykhc.org">joe_klejka@ykhc.org</a>
Tony Lazebny Purchasing/Facilities Director Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center 903 W. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 218 Anchorage, AK 99520	907 792 6515	907 792 6555	<a href="mailto:tonyl@anbc.org">tonyl@anbc.org</a>
Mary Loeb, MD Sunshine Community Health Center PO Box 787 Talkeetna, AK 99676	907 733 2273	907 733 1735	<a href="mailto:mloeb@sunshinexhbc.org">mloeb@sunshinexhbc.org</a>

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## Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants

4450 Cordova Street, Suite 110, Anchorage, AK 99503

Phone: (800) 478-8684, In Anchorage: (907) 646-0588 Fax: (907) 562-8641

Email: [info@akapa.org](mailto:info@akapa.org) Website: [www.akapa.org](http://www.akapa.org)

April 5, 2007

To: Alaska State Legislature

On behalf of the Alaskan Academy of Physician Assistants, I wish to state our strong support of the Alaska Primary Care Association regarding their request for 2.3 million dollars in funding for Alaska's Community Health Centers.

Community Health Centers offer vital health care services throughout Alaska in settings both rural and urban, and provide health care to Alaskans both insured and uninsured, regardless of their ability to pay for these services. These facilities not only provide the only health care options available to many of our states residents, they ease the burden placed on already overcrowded (and often overwhelmed) emergency departments. In a time when access to health care is becoming more limited, Community Health Centers are often the only source available to patients on Medicaid or Medicare.

Recent decreases in Federal funding, combined with increases in operating costs and an ever-increasing patient load, have prompted the Alaska Primary Care Association to request \$2.3 million in state funding to support these essential facilities. Please consider this comparison: Hawaii's Community Health Center's receive \$19 million in direct state funding, and Alaska's Community Health Center's receive \$0 in direct state funding. Hawaii's annual patient visits are 85,000, and Alaska's are 80,000. Requesting \$2.3 million in State funding is a reasonable request that should be considered as an investment in the health and welfare of the citizens of our state.

Supporting your Community Health Centers is supporting your constituents, your friends, your neighbors, and all other Alaskans who place their trust and their health in the hands of staff and providers at these clinics.

It's the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Ashley Marquardt, PA-C  
President, Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants•

VISIT OUR WEBSITE @ [AKAPA.ORG](http://AKAPA.ORG)

The purpose of this Academy is to render loyal and honest service to the medical profession and to the public, to develop and enforce continuing educational programs for the Physician Assistant and the Academy membership, to promote the Physician Assistant concept through education of professional and lay people, and to promote similar interest in the student societies.

Dear Senator Olson,

When I was a commercial fisherwoman in Kodiak 25 years ago at age 19, I could not afford health insurance for my family. I gave birth to my daughter who has Cystic Fibrosis. No one provided free or reduced health care services to us. We weren't poor enough to be eligible for Medicaid, because we made just enough to pay our monthly bills. There were months when I had to decide to buy medications for my daughter, or to pay our electric bill (we ate in [candlelight]). It took us 15 years to pay off our medical expenses from her birth and the problems associated with her disease. I know what that feels like, and that is why I run the Kodiak Community Health Center.

Many fishermen and their families have had really bad seasons this year and they have no money to pay for much needed medical services. I know several families who had less than 8 days of fishing income the entire year. How can a family pay for health insurance coverage, not to mention food, shelter and clothing? The Kodiak Community Health Center would like to have your support on the \$2.3 million in state support for Community Health Centers in Alaska. We are going into our third year of our clinic, and have become an integral delivery site for health care needs in our rural community. We already see 800 patients a month in our small community. People cannot afford to pay \$350 round trip fares to see a provider when they are on our sliding scale. Please consider supporting this important endeavor.

Brenda Friend  
Director & Past Real Life Non-Insured Kodiak Fisherwoman with  
Uninsurable Children

*Above email message was written by Brenda Friend, Executive Director, Kodiak Community Health Center on March 27, 2007 with the subject title "Kodiak Community."*

I am the CEO of a Community Health center in Wasilla. We need your help by putting forward a budget amendment for \$2.3 to support our health centers. Today we had a Board Quality Improvement meeting where we presented data regarding the people we served in 2006. 50% of those people served were self pay which means that they do not have insurance or services covered by Medicaid. Most of these people are charged a nominal fee of \$10 or \$20 per visit based on a discounted fee schedule. It is often assumed that these are non-working individuals. This morning I saw a report that indicated that 80% of working individuals in the US do not have insurance. That is why it is so very important to help community health centers stay available to Alaskans.  
Thank you for your support.

Maryalice Larson, CEO  
Mat-Su Health Services, Inc.  
1363 West Spruce Ave.  
Wasilla, AK 99654  
907-376-2411  
[mlarson@matsuhealth.org](mailto:mlarson@matsuhealth.org)

*Above email message was written to Senator Dorothy Olson on March 26, 2007 with subject title "Appropriation for Community Health Centers."*

**Mindy Rowland**

**From:** Shelley Hughes [ShelleyH@alaskapca.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 5:25 PM  
**To:** Mindy Rowland  
**Subject:** for Senate Finance Committee FW: Funding For Community Health Centers

**From:** Susan W. Cox [mailto:scox@camaclinic.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 8:34 AM  
**To:** Senator Lyman; Senator Bert; Senator Charlie; Senator Kim; Senator Donny; Senator Joe; Senator Fred  
**Cc:** Regan Mattingly  
**Subject:** Funding For Community Health Centers

Senators,

Alaska is one of only fourteen states in our nation that does not provide funding for Community Health Centers (CHC). There are 115 Community Health Centers delivering care in Alaska. Many are located in remote areas and are the only source of health care for thousands of Alaskans. Those 115 sites are in desperate need of \$2.3 million to offset the high costs of providing primary care to over 60,000 Alaskans. We need your help and your vote NOW to let the Legislature know that the State of Alaska should invest in these critically important safety-net providers to ensure health care access for all Alaskans. Since the House's budget is finished and does NOT include Community Health Center funding – the amendment must be added in Senate Finance.

As the Executive Director of one of these remote community health care facilities I know the care we provide to Bristol Bay and that the area would be without a physician if we were not here. We have the only physician on site between Anchorage and Dutch Harbor. That is over six hundred air miles. We see everything from family practice matters such as colds, flu symptoms, monitoring chronic conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, OB-GYN to Level I traumas such as amputations, crush injuries, bear attacks, hypothermia, heart attacks, strokes, head injuries. We take our own x-rays, make our own casts and reduce any fracture that does not require surgery. We keep patients alive for the four to five hours it takes to get medevacs to us. We are the family physician to hundreds of people in Bristol Bay as well as the all important commercial and tourist fishing and hunting industries. We also provide the medical care for tourists who go to Brooks to see the bears. As long as people want to live, work and visit in this area they need medical care. **We are that medical care.**

Help us continue to provide care. As is the case everywhere the cost of medical care is rising to unprecedented heights. Being in a remote location increases that cost considerably. A few weeks ago I ordered oxygen. The oxygen cost \$35.65. The hazmat charge to get it to us was \$365.83. Supplies cost us anywhere from 40% to 70% more than they do in Anchorage because of the remote location. Hiring staff is very difficult because we have to pay extremely high wages plus provide housing, transportation and excellent benefit packages to attract them. It becomes a bidding war to get the best. Not everyone will work in a remote location. Add to that the fact that a high degree of knowledge, experience and skill is needed to be able to deal with everything that we treat. A newcomer just out of school cannot do this job. The best applicants are sort after by all of us, and we are in competition with Prudhoe Bay and other mega corporations for these individuals. I don't have the vast resources that the oil companies have. Does that mean that the people of Bristol Bay should have to settle for least than the best when they need health care? I sincerely hope your answer to that question is no.

Lack of quality health care affects all of us sooner or later. If the people in remote locations can't get quality care now their health issues will worsen and eventually cost more money, often at tax payer expense. So, you have the power to help us keep Community Health Centers adequately funded and operational now or you can do nothing, wait for us to run out of funds and close and then you can deal with the fallout. The choice is yours. I hope you make the right judgment call. The future health of thousands of Alaskans depends on you. Act appropriately. What would you pay for good health care for your lives? Don't the uninsured, the low income, the underinsured, the uninsured working families and underserved remote areas and populations deserve good health care, too?

Susan Cox

4/10/2007

Executive Director  
Camai Community Health Center  
P.O. Box 211  
Naknek, Alaska 99633 - 0211  
(907)246-6155 Phone  
(907)246-6158 Fax  
e-mail: [director@camaiclinic.com](mailto:director@camaiclinic.com)

Quotes from: Alaska's Congressional Delegation  
to the Alaska State Legislature  
Urging State Funding Support for Community Health Centers

"In this period of decreasing federal funding, federal agencies look for community and state support as a key factor in determining allocation of funding for projects. This is particularly true for health care. Alaska is one of only 14 states that does not provide financial support for community health centers. Without state funding, these centers face an uncertain future."  
*Senator Ted Stevens* - March 19, 2007

"One specific aspect of the legislation (Physician Shortage Elimination Act) will be to bolster the cornerstone of health care in rural Alaska - - the community health center. Through grants, community health centers will be able to increase their ability to recruit physicians and improve their critical primary care services. I commit to rural Alaska that I will do all I can to at a federal level to improve funding for community health centers. And, I ask the state of Alaska to make that same pledge of support at a state level."  
*Senator Lisa Murkowski* - February 22, 2007

Submitted by  
AK Primary Care Assoc

## 2007 Campaign for PCA Reform

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

March 9, 2007

Dear Governor Palin:

### **The Longevity Bonus was not the only promise to seniors broken by the last Administration.**

As discussed below, Governor Hickel put Alaska ahead of the nation in commitment to helping seniors and people with disabilities to live out their lives at home. However, the last Administration "broke" that promised vision, in order to meet their budget goals. We urgently need you to correct this serious inequity in Alaska's funding of Medicaid services for people with disabilities and frail seniors. Please consider that under a 1999 Alaska statute, Medicaid payment rates for hospitals and nursing homes are "re-based" every four years to catch up with rising costs, and on in-between years their rates are automatically inflation-proofed by the percent of increase in a national cost data study. Then please consider the contrast: providers of the "home care" Medicaid services--designed during Governor Hickel's term as alternatives to prevent costly care in nursing homes and hospitals, have had their Medicaid rates frozen in Alaska regulation since 1998 and 2004 respectively. The necessary partnership between the State and local provider agencies of home care to seniors has been forgotten.

We're talking about Medicaid home care services such as Personal Care Attendant (PCA) and Home and Community-based waiver services. We, the Campaign for PCA Reform, started in 2004, an effort of the three Alaska-based companies signing below. Although we have been struggling under frozen Medicaid rates for up to a decade, the Campaign first worked to address the issue of lack of adequate State control over the growing Personal Care Attendant program in DH&SS. Through active advocacy with both the Administration and the Legislature, the Campaign put forward early versions of 2005 Legislative Intent Language that encouraged the Department to better harness the growth in PCA utilization. The Campaign continues to provide leadership to the statewide PCA industry. We now work closely with the Department to better govern and maintain operational integrity of this vitally important service for Alaskan elders and individuals who experience disabilities.

Alternative services that allow consumers to remain in their own homes can trace their roots to less than 40 years ago, whereas nursing homes have been part of the service delivery system for elders and individuals with physical disabilities since the early 19th century. To prevent the building of millions more nursing home beds, and to support families struggling with long term care, the long term care system in America is actively working to "re-balance" the system.

Alaska's long-term care system successfully started its re-balancing work in the early 1990's under Governor Hickel, making Alaska a national leader as our state made a dramatic shift from providing the majority of care in institutional settings to serving many more Alaskans in home and community based settings. However, as the "aging of Alaska" trend has fully arrived on our doorsteps, the last decade's successes in Alaska's long term care system will falter and fail unless positive regulation and increased funding allocations keep up--keep the promise.

Governor Murkowski's administration created temporary "savings" in the Medicaid budget for Alaska by unilateral regulatory and budgetary imposition of "cost containment" strategies. Many of these strategies were accomplished by shifting the burden of rising business costs onto home and community services for elderly and disabled Alaskans.

ReadyCare

Center for Community

Access Alaska

## 2007 Campaign for PCA Reform

One of the first cost containment strategies was to discard a three-year study on fair compensation to the local agencies that provide in-home care known as "personal care assistance," or PCA. In early 2004, Commissioner Gilbertson rejected the recommendation of a UAA study group that the Alaska PCA payment rate of \$21 per hour, last set in 1998, be raised to at least \$26 per hour in 2004. He also rejected recommendations to give rates a regional differential for Alaska's most rural areas. Commissioner Gilbertson left PCA rates frozen at their 1998 rate of \$21 per hour, inclusive of all costs: wages to the direct service worker (average @ \$13.50 hour), workers compensation insurance, benefits, supervision costs, travel between clients' homes, rising energy costs, and overhead.

PCA Medicaid rates in Alaska remain frozen in DH&SS regulation at \$21 an hour, the same since 1998. Meantime, we agencies--who are businesses, whether for or not-for profit--are struggling to survive and continue to provide quality care to over 4000 Alaskans; frail elders trying to live out their lives at home, disabled adults trying to cope with chronic disease or disability, and medically complex small children needing intensive hands-on care to stay out of institutions. All of these clients, if left without PCA care, would likely quickly move to hospitals, assisted living homes, Pioneers' Homes, group homes, or nursing homes, in many cases away from their home community where their care would cost Alaska's Medicaid system dramatically more.

PCA and Medicaid home care waiver services are often the first line of defense, needed to augment family 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.

The Medicaid inequity between institutional care and home-based care continues in the current proposed budget. The proposed FY08 budget contains an increment for rate increases to hospitals and nursing homes. The Department of Health & Social Services appears to be continuing the Murkowski strategy, to refuse to enact new regulations to "unfreeze" the 1998 PCA rates, which would require a budget increment.

For nine of the ten years that PCA rates have been frozen in Alaska, our state has paid hospitals and nursing homes with automatic and annual index-based rate increases, averaging over 3% per annum--over 34% in automatic increases since 1999, plus whatever cost-based rate increases were found reasonable. PCA has been given no opportunity to deal with our increased costs of doing business and providing care.

Many of the PCA provider agencies also provide Medicaid home care "waiver" services--to about 2000 more Alaskans who, in addition to the 4000 PCA clients, would otherwise be crowding for a Medicaid-paid admission to Alaska's 650 nursing home beds or our 450 Pioneers' Home beds. Medicaid home care waiver rates are also frozen in regulations at DH&SS, and the department has proposed regulations out for public comment that will officially continue this rate freeze through FY08. By the end of FY08, waiver home care service rates will have been officially frozen for a minimum of four years to as much as 14 years, depending on the category of service. This is a short sample list of the vital Medicaid waiver services being crippled by these continuing rate freezes: home delivered meals, adult day care services, respite breaks for caregivers, essential chores, and assisted living care.

Alaska's PCA program has experienced a large utilization growth in the last four years, in keeping with the dramatic "aging" of Alaska. Regulations implemented in April, 2006 brought control and structure to this vital program. Several recent studies indicate that we will continue to see a large growth in our senior and disabled populations over the next 20 years. People want to remain in their own homes, in villages and urban settings alike, for as long as possible. Home-based services are less costly to the system as a whole and keep Alaskan families together.

## 2007 Campaign for PCA Reform

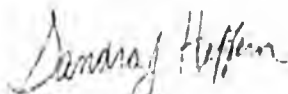
Budgetary policy should be applied equitably across all providers of Medicaid services. Otherwise, it sends an odd public policy message: that the State prefers institutions over home care that helps our families cope with the years of daily long term care of home bound people. Home-based services such as PCA and waiver services are components in the continuum of long-term care as are institutions; however, institutions are the most costly while being the least desirable to consumers.

Governor Palin, during your campaign you pledged that state payments for Medicaid that had not been adjusted for years would merit your Administration's early attention. We hope that you will adapt your FY08 budget strategy for Alaska's Medicaid budget to make room at the table for ALL Medicaid providers--because we are the hands that serve ALL Alaskans in need.

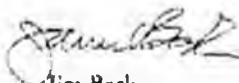
The DH&SS budget for FY08 projects a \$16.5 million "savings" in the PCA program through better administration and control of the PCA program. We would ask that you consider re-directing this \$16.5 million to a modest rate increase to PCA providers for FY08--approximately 12% to 15% (compare to 34% for nursing homes since 1999). The Medicaid waiver services are also crying out for rate relief this budget year. We also hope that you will charge your Administration with the task of quickly developing an forward-looking equitable rate structure across all Medicaid providers.

Governor, we all support your mandate to live within our state's means. We believe that the fair and true costs of the services Alaska purchases need to be factored into this budget policy, including the Medicaid services we as a state choose to purchase.

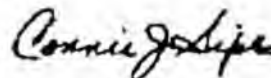
Thank you for your time and consideration.



Sandra Heffern  
CEO  
ReadyCare Alaska  
907-258-3498



Jim Beck  
Executive Director  
Access Alaska  
907-248-1777



Connie J. Sipe  
Executive Director  
Center for Community  
907-747-6960

cc: Commissioner Karleen Jackson  
All Members, Alaska Legislature



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the (S)FIN  
COMMITTEE NAME  
 committee on HB95 / HB96, dated 4-10-07  
BILL/SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

My name is Bob Moore. I am an educator in the Homer area with over 38 years of service to area students in our <sup>best</sup> ~~best~~ schools. I have also worked with the Kachemak Bay Branch of UAA as an Advisory Board member and as an adult instructor.

My testimony is a request of legislative support of the UAA system but especially in the area of fixed costs. New programs are a major issue without ~~the~~ fixed costs being maintained and funded. This action will not only benefit Homer - but the entire state.

Support of education - from primary levels through the university system - results in lasting positive benefits for all of Alaska.

Thank you for your support.  
 Moore

signed: Bob Moore  
TELEPHONE (EVENING/OUTSIDE)

ALASKAN STUDENTS (ALL AGES) AND SELF  
TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 4192 - Homer AK 99603-4192  
TELEPHONE

(907) 235-7432  
TELEPHONE

April 10, 2007

Mr. Chairman & Senators of the Finance Committee,

My Name is Ted Smith and I am the Mayor of Petersburg. I am testifying today for Revenue Sharing.

As Communities have taken on more and more responsibility from the State, such as, Senior Citizens' Tax Exemption and other unfunded mandates, along with State underfunding for deferred maintenance on roads and especially harbors, I hope you will keep in mind as a Municipality our ability to keep up with rising costs of these mandates and education is limited and we are asking you to reintroduce a much needed influx to all Communities in the line item of Revenue Sharing.

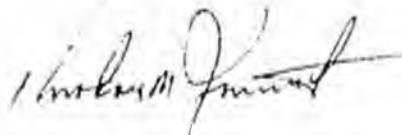
Revenue Sharing is an operating cost and should be kept in the Operating Budget.

PERS & TERS are a separate item and should not be considered Revenue Sharing to Communities, but a separate item to be resolved by the State legislature.

We, as Communities need Revenue Sharing to continue basic services and possibly in some Communities some tax relief.

At least in the short term this will not happen in Petersburg, but it will allow us to hold the line on our Sales Tax and Property Tax.

Thank you for your time and the many hours of work you have done and will continue to do on our behalf.





# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the (S)FIN  
COMMITTEE NAME  
 committee on HB995 / HB96, dated 4-10-07  
BILL / SUBJECT TODAY'S DATE

My name is Diane Bergman. I have lived in Alaska for 37 years. I now live in Homer, Alaska. I am a co-owner of Homer Ocean Charters and Otter Cove Resort. Tourism is our livelihood, without a strong tourism industry our business would not exist. Increased funding from the state to support tourism is critical. Core marketing funding of \$1.8M and \$1.5 million in independent marketing efforts will directly benefit the state and the businesses that depend upon tourism. please approve this funding as part of the budget.

Diane Bergman

Signed Diane Bergman  
TESTIFY (Print Name)  
Homer Ocean Charters  
TESTIFY (Print Name)  
PO Box 3992 hcc@xyz.net  
ADDRESS  
907-235-6312  
PHONE



Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau  
P.O. Box 1350  
Wrangell, AK 99929

www.wrangell.com  
wrangell@wrangell.com  
800-367-9745

April 10, 2007

Senator Bert Stedman  
Senator Lynnann Hoffman  
Co chairs Senate Finance Committee

Re: Budget Hearings: funding for ATIA and Tourism Marketing

Dear Senators:

Due to the delay in Committee hearing times today, I was not able to be present during the hearing portion when Wrangell was to speak, but I would like to provide written testimony.

The City of Wrangell is investing in tourism within the community in an effort to help diversify our economy after the loss of so many wood processing jobs and continued domino affect of a declining economy. We have undertaken construction of a convention center, a dock extension and a downtown revitalization plan. Tourism, along with seafood processing are key components to our current economy.

The Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau has been a member of ATIA for many years. The CVB has a budget of approximately \$25,000 derived from our Transient Tax Fund. We believe it is very important to participate in the ATIA program and leverage our minimal marketing dollars by participating in the cooperative efforts of ATIA for advertising, tradeshow and fam trips. The CVB encourages funding of the Core Tourism marketing program as well as additional funding for the Independent traveler... currently our primary source of tourism revenue. The CVB also encourages the modification to the matching formula.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Rushmore".

Carol Rushmore  
Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau



**Cornerstone Home Health Facsimile**  
5636 Glacier Hwy, Suite 100 Juneau, AK 99801  
Phone: (907) 586-6838  
Fax: (907) 586-8114

**Date: 4/10/2007**

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**To: Lyman Hoffman**

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**Fax #: 907-465-4523**

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**From: Corrine Rago, RN, Administrator**

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**Page(s): 3 Including Cover**

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Urgent       For Review       Please Comment       Please Reply

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Notes/Comments:  
Please see attached letter.

Thank you and have a nice day.

The documents in this facsimile transmission may contain confidential health information that is privileged and legally protected from disclosure by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). This information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that reading, disseminating, disclosing, distributing, copying, acting upon or otherwise using the information contained in this facsimile is strictly prohibited. If you have received this information in error, please notify the sender immediately at (907) 586-6838 and destroy the facsimile.

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**FAXED**  
04/10/07



## CORNERSTONE HOME HEALTH

5838 Glacier Hwy. Suite 100 Juneau, AK 99801 Phone: (907) 586-6838 Fax: (907) 586-8114

April 6, 2007

Lyman Hoffman  
State Capitol, Room 518  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Hoffman,

As the Administrator of Cornerstone Home Health I have had the privilege directing my agency in the provision of much needed community based care for over ten years in Southeast Alaska. Cornerstone provides a variety of care options from traditional "Skilled Medicare" visits, Home and Community Waiver services and Personal Care Services (PCA).

Currently, we employ over 180 residents of Southeast Alaska and are serving 160 consumers. We began providing PCA services as a "Pilot Project" in 1999. Our program like others in the State has experienced tremendous growth; especially once the Consumer Directed PCA program became an option. This program allowed consumers in outlying communities to receive care that was not available in the Agency Based model of service delivery.

Since our expertise was in the traditional "Skilled" Medicare model when we developed our PCA program, the oversights we set in place mirror that model and level of accountability. Our nurses provide training and support for the PCA staff and are able to direct appropriate interventions as needed. We have tracked outcomes for our PCA clients, including exacerbations in their condition and hospital admissions. A significant percentage of our PCA consumers have reduced hospitalization rates of 15% - 25% when compared to their hospitalization and emergency room visits prior to participation in the PCA program; this provides significant savings to our State.

Unfortunately, our Personal Care Program, along with others is in financial jeopardy. Our costs have risen; over 35% in direct payroll costs, 36% in health insurance, and 24% in administrative oversight. Yet there has been no increase in PCA reimbursement since the program was initiated in 1998. We are still providing these much needed services for \$21 an hour. We run a fiscally responsible program, however last year we lost money. I ask for your consideration in approving a rate increase to the PCA program. We are requesting a rate increase of \$5.88 per hour; this would reflect a 2.5% rate annual increase which is less than the automatic rate increases of other Medicaid services. Cornerstone supports the findings and the recommendations outlined in the 2007 Campaign for PCA Reform.

The PCA Provider Association has been diligently working on issues that affect this much needed program. We have appreciated the opportunity to partner with the State in meeting the health and functional needs of Alaskans. We are pleased to able to provide meaningful health related career choices to residents of our region. We hope the State, Legislator, Senate and Governor's Office are able to

address this issue in order to preserve the PCA program as a viable, cost efficient service that helps insure Alaskan can receive the support they need to remain safely independent in the home and community of their choice.

Sincerely,



Corrine Rago, RN

Administrator

Cornerstone Home Health



# City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

SENATE FINANCE 4-10-07

SITKA Municipal Administration's comments

REVENUE SHARING IS IMPORTANT TO SITKA BECAUSE:

- (1) STATE REVENUES BELONG TO STATE CITIZENS. SITKA IS OUTSIDE THE MAINSTREAM "OIL ECONOMY" AND RECEIVES ONLY INDIRECT BENEFITS
- (2) REVENUE SHARING SUPPORTS BASIC COMMUNITY SERVICES ROADS, POLICE, FIRE, YOUTH, SENIORS.
- (3) REVENUE SHARING SHOULD BE AN OPERATIONAL COST AS LOSS OF CITY PROVIDED SERVICES WILL FINALLY FALL TO STATE.
- (4) STATE APPROVED EXEMPTIONS ARE NOT REIMBURSED TO CITIES: SITKA SENIOR & DISABLED VETERAN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION COSTS \$400,000/yr + 6% INFL. IF EXEMPTION LIMIT INCREASES TO \$250,000 PER HOUSEHOLD COST TO CITY WILL BE \$650,000/yr.
- (5) SITKA RS HISTORY

97	\$ 825,842
98	715,870
99	702,105
00	446,877
01	411,800
02	425,527
03	424,585
04	212,986
05	0
06	0
2007	\$ 331,028

John Stein  
747-1808

## Sandy Burd

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**From:** publisher@akbizmag.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 3:46 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,  
Vern McCorkle  
1905 E.37 Av  
501 W. NLB  
Anchorage, AK 99508 &pa\_address% 24

## Sandy Burd

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From: afdm2@uaa.alaska.edu  
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 3:52 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,  
Deborah Mole  
15815 Alta Court  
Anchorage, AK 99516

**Sandy Burd**

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**From:** fsstm3@uaf.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 4:04 PM  
**To:** Sen. Lyman Hoffman  
**Subject:** Please Help Fund UA's fixed costs

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

Dear Senator Hoffman,

Education is the key to a successful economy and happy people.

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. Thanks.

Sincerely,  
Seth Miller  
UAF Campus  
Fairbanks, AK 46540

Sandy Burd

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**From:** Glennette Christian [g.christian@skagway.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 4:06 PM  
**To:** Sen. Lyman Hoffman  
**Subject:** CHC Funding

Senator Hoffman:

Please approve the \$2.3 million dollars for CHC(s) in Alaska. I am from Skagway and we have not been able to get funding on the federal level to be a CHC. The money set aside for the CHC(s) would help us clinics that have not been approved for federal funding with \$600,000.00 set aside for assist us until federal funding would be available. We see about 1,000 people with over 5,000 encounters in a years time. We have over 10,000 people hit our streets on any given spring or summer day. We have a high non-insured base especially from our summer work staff, therefore we have a huge fall out of non-payment. Please consider adding this to the budget or the capital budget to help us get through another year.

Sincerely,  
Glennette Christian  
Dahl Memorial Clinic  
Administrator

## Sandy Burd

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**From:** fsmks2@uaf.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 4:06 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,  
Megan Sullivan  
P.O. Box 752866  
Fairbanks, AK 99775

## Sandy Burd

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**From:** kccummins@gci.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 3:17 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,

Dear Legislative Contingent:

I have been around the University (UAJ-UAS) for the past twenty-plus years. I have lobbied the legislature in years past, written letters and even gave testimony as part of my duties as not only a Classified Employee, but as President of our Classified Association. How is this different from 20 years ago? Same story - University fights to stay alive - some of the same people in charge our our destiny.

I guess I could also be considered a 'fixed' cost because I have no plans in leaving any time soon. I love my job, but more importantly I love WHO I work FOR...the students, our (Alaska's) future.

If the University is not fully funded to offset the rising costs and allowed grow with new, bigger, better programs, Alaska will suffer dramatically with more and more of the Brain Drain already affecting our State.

Interesting quote from Art Chance in an ad in the Juneau Empire regarding wages a few nights ago. Something like..."You pay peanuts you get monkeys and even the monkeys are not interested in working for peanuts anymore with the high cost of living and the weather." We know working at UA is not going to make the employees rich. It is the experience of working with and molding the young minds of our future that is enriching. However, that does not pay our fuel, electric, travel in and out, and food bills. Cutting or eliminating programs will decrease enrollments, cut positions, and soon have nothing left but a shell of what used to be a great place of higher education - alive with youth, energy, ideas, dedication, and commitment to our State. Where else could you go to a college is such a land of beauty?

How can we believe that either blatantly cutting UA's budget or keeping it 'as is' (which would be the same as a severe cut with higher 'fixed' costs) would not devasate OUR University?

The next step would be to put up For Sale signs on all the UA campuses: For Sale: One Used University-Inquire Within" and forward all calls to our elected officials and have them explain why the University is not a top priority for Alaska's future.

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 PLEASE support an amendment to adequately fund UA! It is in ALL our best interests!

Sincerely,  
Karen Cummins  
4436 Columbia Blvd  
Juneau, AK 99801

**Sandy Burd**

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**From:** Ann E Park [ann\_park@eed.state.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 2:36 PM  
**To:** Sen. Lyman Hoffman  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 95 & 96

Senator Hoffman

I hope you realized how important it is to keep the funding for the interpreter referral line. The funding is to help train interpreters and to bring in people from out of state to train us to improve our skills. We are all counting on your support to help us keep the funding coming in. If we don't have the funding to keep our interpreters here to help us then how will we get help? We need our interpreters to help us understand what is going on in this community and what is going on at the Legislators and so forth.

Please for our sake in our community and the state please help. We are counting on you folks to support this bill as we support you for your help.

Thank you for all you have done for our community and state.

Ann Park

Admin. Clerk II and part time interpreter for our community.

4/10/2007

## Sandy Burd

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**From:** Carol Barrett [shakshak@horizonsatellite.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 2:59 PM  
**To:** Sen. Lyman Hoffman  
**Subject:** Budget items for women, children, seniors and the disabled

Carol Barrett  
PO Box 902  
Anchor Point, AK 99556-0902

April 10, 2007

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

Dear Senator Hoffman:

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.

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.

Expand Infant Learning Program. Maintain \$300,000. Infant learning programs provide assessment and early intervention for children with developmental delays. Early intervention saves money by reducing the need for lifelong treatment programs.

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

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.

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.

Anchorage Crisis Respite. Add \$350,000. These funds will increase beds at the Crisis Recovery Center from 8 to 12 and provide a much needed alternative to API for those in need of crisis rather than long-term treatment.

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.

Autism Diagnosis. Add \$507,000. These funds will provide foundation screening and diagnostic services for this currently underserved population.

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,

Carol Barrett  
907-235-4193

This message has been verified by CapwizXC as authentic and sent by this individual.  
Authentication ID: [nttjSVK3]

**Sandy Burd**

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**From:** manickles@alaska.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 3:04 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 Ann Nickles  
215 Dunbar Ave  
Fairbanks, AK 99701-3660

## Sandy Burd

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**From:** fnbja@uaf.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 3:09 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.

I am a physician working at the UAF student health clinic. I attended UAF as an undergraduate and went through the WAMI program in the early '90's. I realize how important it is to have strong health education programs in order to keep our Alaskan students here for both education and employment.

Sincerely,  
Betty Aldrich  
825 Canterbury Dr.  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

## Sandy Burd

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**From:** rncdw@uaf.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 3:09 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,  
Crystal Wilson  
Tok Center  
PO Box 464  
Tok, AK 99780-0464

April 10, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Becky Harrington. I am a resident of Juneau and I am Deaf. I am not able to attend this public hearing in person so I have asked Pam Muller-Guy to read this letter on my behalf.

When I first arrived in Juneau 10 years ago, the Deaf Community had very little resources for interpreters. We didn't have but 1 (one) qualified interpreter...the other ones were usually someone from a sign class trying to help. They did not have the ability to interpret properly. There were problems with misunderstandings and miscommunication with this scenario that led to many complicated and unnecessary consequences for both the Deaf and the Hearing consumers.

I have personally seen the "GAP" getting smaller and smaller because of the IRL Program. They are responsible for providing interpreters to the ADA Meetings, Schools, Doctor visits, Court and other places to help bridge the gap in communication between the Deaf and Hearing Communities. This helps the Deaf become independent and be productive out in the community with confidence.

We now have more then 1 (one) qualified interpreter to accommodate the demand needed. We still have a long way to go. We need more training for interpreters, more public awareness on the use of interpreters and what works and what does not work.

When I heard that the funds for this program were in jeopardy, I could not even imagine why anyone would want to cut funds of a program that has such a SUCCESS story. We should be getting more funds to enhance the program. After all closing the GAP on communication barriers is a much better image then "exclusion"...isn't it? I ask you with a pleading heart PLEASE DO NOT send me and other Deaf back into "exclusion". Allow the expansion of the program and DO NOT CUT THE IRL FUNDS !!! Thank you for listening! Should you need further information from me you may contact me by the means below.

Becky Harrington  
3410 Foster Ave #A7  
Juneau Alaska 99801



1-866-327-8877 (Give the interpreter my phone number 907-523-2165)  
Email: [mamak1157@yahoo.com](mailto:mamak1157@yahoo.com)

Hello and thank you for the opportunity to speak.

My name is Pam Mueller Guy and I have been the Deaf Services Coordinator at Southeast Alaska Independent Living, SAIL, for the past 6 years.

Please help individuals in the deaf community succeed in every aspect of their lives: support a Senate amendment of a \$94,000 for Interpreter Referral Services. This money will help the Deaf of Alaska in every aspect of their lives—doctor's appointments, emergency rooms, in court, and for employment.

For 16 years, the providers of the Interpreter Referral services in Alaska have seen no increase in funding.

While our funding has stayed the same, the demand for interpreters has steadily been on the rise. It is clearly an unmet need.

11 years ago, SAIL filled 99 sign language interpreter requests.

Over the past two years, requests for interpreters has risen 155 percent.

Last fiscal year, we filled over nearly 500 requests in Southeast alone.

It is so important for a person who is deaf to have good, qualified interpreters to help them succeed.

For example, a consumer we serve was diagnosed with meningitis and became deaf at the age of seven. Last month he successfully completed a three-week training sponsored by the Plumbers and Pipe Fitters. He is well on his way to fulfill his dream—to become a union plumber, like his father before him. His success would not be possible without the assistance of a qualified sign language interpreter.

Another consumer, a mother of 7 children, is also using interpreter services to finish her GED so she can get a good job for her family—her strides toward this goal would not be possible without interpreter services.

I am also a model of that success. As a full time employee, a mother of two grown boys and a current student at the University of Alaska, I do not know where I would be without the service of qualified interpreters and a good interpreter referral agency in town. My world and my success would probably be very different without this important support.

Please offer a Senate amendment, adding an increment of at least \$94,000 for Interpreter Referral Services, the Special Projects Line Item in the Department of Labor budget.



# CITY OF WRANGELL, ALASKA

INCORPORATED JUNE 15, 1803

BOX 531, 99929

(907) 874-2381

FAX: (907) 874-3952

April 10, 2007

To: Senate Finance Committee  
 Attn: Co-Chairman Senator Bert Stedman  
 Co-Chairman Senator Lyman Hoffman

From: City of Wrangell  
 Jeff Jabusch, Finance Director

Subject: Testimony in support of Revenue Sharing

- ❖ Wrangell is down to just supporting basic services such as police, fire, roads, and schools that are needed in a small community.
- ❖ Wrangell's Sales Tax is at 7% and our property tax is at 12 mills and likely will be 12.75 in 2007.
- ❖ The state property tax exemption for seniors and disabled vets once was reimbursed by the state at 100%, now it is nothing. In the mid 1980's, Wrangell's Population was approximately 2800 and we had less then 100 seniors claiming the property exemption. In 2007, Wrangell's population is 1911 and we had 157 seniors claim property tax exemptions. This is having a huge affect on our ability to raise revenues through property taxes needed to balance our current budget. Wages, benefits, including PERS, health insurance and other expenses continue to go up, but our property taxable property does not. In fact, our taxable property will be less in 2007 than 2006 because of increased seniors claiming the exemption that is no longer reimbursed by the state. If the amount of the senior exemption was 100% reimbursed today with a reasonable PERS fix, Wrangell would not have a budget crisis
- ❖ Currently, the city operates a jail and we receive funding from the state which falls short of the actual cost to operate the jail. This is not an essential city function, but a state function. This too is under funded.
- ❖ The City of Wrangell is currently supporting our school at the maximum amount allowed because of shortfalls in education funding for our school so our students can have a basic education.
- ❖ Even if there is a PERS fix which allows the cities to pay the same amount they are paying this year, for Wrangell that is still approximately a 100% increase over what we have averaged over the last 10 years.

- ❖ Without some help from the state, Wrangell will likely have to reduce or eliminate some combination of the following: reduce Library staff and hours, close our swimming pool completely or part of the year, reduce road maintenance and snow removal, reduce police and jail services, reduce some combination of wages, benefits or employees overall, reduce funding to the schools, reduce maintenance on parks and cemeteries, and reduce or eliminate many other smaller functions the city now does.
- ❖ Over the last 7 years, Wrangell has done many things and spent millions of dollars to help make businesses in the tourism, timber and fishing industries be successful. We believe that we have a chance in turning our economy around slowly over the next several years because of this. We need state operating help to keep all of our current essential services in place to be able to make this progress. With a 7% Sales Tax rate and a 12.75 mill rate and supporting our schools at the maximum, we feel Wrangell is doing our part and our citizens are taxed to their limit within our existing economy. We understand that many of the state programs that did exist such as the senior tax reimbursement, municipal assistance and others are probably gone for ever, but revenue sharing was a stable commitment by the state for years. It made the difference for many of the small towns in Alaska, including Wrangell, to maintain basic services. We encourage you to reinstate this program to help preserve basic services in Wrangell and other Alaskan communities. Thank you.

# Alaska Primary Care Association

*"...uncompromising in the pursuit of access to primary care for all Alaskans."*



## What Could Alaska Expect in Return For Investing \$2.3 Million in Community Health Centers (CHCs)?

- **Estimated Medicaid Savings of \$2 Million**
- **Reduced ER Visits for Estimated Savings of \$2.6 Million**
- **Increased Workforce Retention**
- **Reduced Recruitment Costs**
- **Improved Health Outcomes for Alaskans**

### Estimated Medicaid Savings of \$2 Million

- **CHCs save Medicaid 30% in annual spending per beneficiary**  
Medicaid patients seen at CHC's compared to Medicaid patients seen elsewhere:
  - Lowest total health care costs
  - Lowest cost per ambulatory visit
  - Lowest rate of hospital inpatient days
  - Lowest inpatient care costs
- **CHCs already save State Medicaid \$10.3 million annually**
  - 18,051 CHC Medicaid patients in Alaska in 2005 (13.4% of all Medicaid patients)
  - \$1,015 average annual cost of CHC Medicaid patients in Alaska
  - \$4,547 statewide average annual cost of Medicaid patients
  - \$1,364 in annual savings per CHC Medicaid patient (based on 30% savings)
  - \$24.6 million annual Medicaid savings (1,364 x 18,051 patients)
  - \$10.3 million in State Medicaid savings (\$24.6 million x 42%)
- **A 10% increase in number of CHC Medicaid patients could potentially save Alaska \$1 million**  
1800 additional CHC Medicaid patients = \$1 million State savings
- **A 20% increase in number of CHC Medicaid patients could potentially save Alaska \$2 million**  
3600 additional CHC Medicaid patients = \$2 million State savings
- **A 30% increase in number of CHC Medicaid patients could potentially save Alaska \$3 million**  
5400 additional CHC Medicaid patients = \$3 million State savings
- **With sustainable funding, Alaskan CHCs can continue to increase the number of patients and encounters.**  
From 2004 to 2005, CHC patients increased 13.8% from 68,598 to 78,077 patients. We can only expect to see this substantial increase in patients if there is stable and sustainable funding for the CHCs.

# Alaska Primary Care Association

*"...uncompromising in the pursuit of access to primary care for all Alaskans."*



## Reduced ER Visits for Estimated Savings of \$2.6 Million

- \$15.9 million spent in Alaska on unnecessary E.R. visits
  - 24,409 unnecessary ER visits in Alaska
  - \$650 = potential savings per unnecessary visit if treated in primary care setting
  - 2000 unnecessary ER visits redirected to CHCs could potentially save \$1.3 million
  - 4000 unnecessary ER visits redirected to CHCs could potentially save \$2.6 million
  - 8000 unnecessary ER visits redirected to CHCs could potentially save \$5.2 million
- In 2004, the 634,180 people who live in Alaska made an average of 244,090 hospital emergency room visits. A 1994 Stanford University study reported that 10% of all emergency room visits are for non-urgent conditions that could be treated in a primary care setting, such as a health center or physician's office. Researchers estimated that between \$5 billion and \$7 billion would have been saved nationally if the needed care had been provided in a more appropriate setting – this equates to a potential \$650 in savings per unnecessary ER visit. The following estimates show that a combination of increased health center use and reduced utilization in emergency room care at Alaska hospitals could save \$15.9 million annually:
- $244,090 \text{ ER visits} \times 10\% = 24,409 \text{ unnecessary ER visits}$   
 $24,409 \times \$650 = \$15.9 \text{ million in unnecessary care costs}$

## Increased Workforce Retention

### Reduced Recruitment Costs

### Improved Health Outcomes for Alaskans

- In 2005, CHCs had a total of 849 employees across the state. Increasing funding to CHCs would enable health centers to have a better ability to retain employees. The cost of retaining employees continues to rise, particularly considering the shortage of physicians in Alaska. Increasing retention of medical and dental professionals will reduce recruitment and locum tenens costs; this savings can be shifted to patient care, increasing access to primary care and improving health outcomes for Alaskans.

*Estimates are based on statistical and other data from the Alaska UDS Roll-up, National Association of Community Health Centers, [www.nachc.com/research](http://www.nachc.com/research), and other national studies. This data is offered by Alaska Primary Care Association for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to warrant or guarantee general or specific cost savings or particular results. For a complete list of data references and research studies reviewed by Alaska Primary Care Association for the purposes of this document, please contact Shelley Hughes at [Shelley@alaskapca.org](mailto:Shelley@alaskapca.org).*

## Sandy Burd

---

**From:** walter majoros [walterm@jys.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 10:26 AM  
**To:** Sen. Lyman Hoffman  
**Subject:** Senate budget priority Items

walter majoros  
PO Box 32839  
Juneau, AK 99803-2839

April 10, 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 children, adults, 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.

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.

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.

Anchorage Crisis Respite. Add \$350,000. These funds will increase beds at the Crisis Recovery Center from 8 to 12 and provide a much needed alternative to API for those in need of crisis rather than long-term treatment.

Sincerely,

walter majoros  
796-4131

This message has been verified by CapwizXC as authentic and sent by this individual.

## Sandy Burd

---

**From:** Nina Allen [nallen@spbhs.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 10:21 AM  
**To:** Sen. Lyman Hoffman  
**Subject:** Budget priorities for vulnerable Alaskans

Nina Allen  
3948 Ben Walters Lane  
Homer, AK 99603-7708

April 10, 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.

Expand Infant Learning Program. Maintain \$300,000. Infant learning programs provide assessment and early intervention for children with developmental delays. Early intervention saves money by reducing the need for lifelong treatment programs.

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.

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

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.

Sincerely,

Nina Allen  
907-235-9229

This message has been verified by CapwizXC as authentic and sent by this individual.  
Authentication ID: [YOH79Jb7]

**Sandy Burd**

---

**From:** Luke Hopkins [lukethopkins@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 7:45 AM  
**To:** Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bert Stedman  
**Subject:** Public Testimony CSHB 95

Senate Finance Co-Chair Senators Hoffman and Stedman,

Thank you for this opportunity to make comment on the CS for the operating budget. I am not able to make the public hearing period today to present my comments.

I am Luke Hopkins, Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly member, and a board member of the Alaska Municipal League.

I request the full committee maintain the funding for the Health and Social Service Community Matching grants that was approved by the SF HESS subcommittee. These funds, along with our local match, provide an established method of distributing services to our community, leverage additional funding for much needed social services and have a very thorough, open review process for tracking the grant expenditures.

Municipal revenue sharing is very important to all our municipalities, allowing for community needs to be met as determined at the local level. I request the Finance Committee provide revenue sharing funds in the operating budget as requested by the Governor.

Another important need in our communities statewide is work force development as we prepare our students and other citizens to meet the increased demand for highly skilled jobs. Reduced funding in the University requested operating budget will limit programs that are being developed to make our work force ready to fill the jobs the statewide economy is creating. I request the committee amend the CS to fund this need.

Thank you for this time to provide committee members with my comments. If there are any further questions, I can be reached on my cell phone 347-0066 or by this email address.

Luke Hopkins  
FNSB Assembly member

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Don't be flakey. Get Yahoo! Mail for Mobile and always stay connected to friends.

**Sandy Burd**

---

**From:** anwlm@uaa.alaska.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 2:28 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,  
Wayne Morrison  
2019 Tasha Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99502

**Sandy Burd**

---

**From:** kpurcell@acsalaska.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 2:10 PM  
**To:** Sen. Lyman Hoffman  
**Subject:** Stop the Senate UA Subcommittee from cutting the university's budget

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

Dear Senator Hoffman,

Please stop the Senate UA Subcommittee from cutting the university's budget. Encourage the chair, Senator Bert Stedman, and the members, Senators Elton, Hoffman, Huggins, Olson, Thomas & Dyson, from cutting the budget below the amount necessary to cover the university's fixed costs. If the Subcommittee budget reduces the funding UA needs for its fixed costs, please encourage Finance Chair, Senator Hoffman, and other members of the full Senate Finance Committee, to restore the funds in a Finance CS.

If the university is allowed to keep the employer cost savings they generate from the PERS/TRS fixes within its budget, they can cover their fixed costs without an increase in GF. Why is this a problem?

Sincerely,  
Kevin Purcell  
315 Bias Dr  
Fairbanks, AK 99712-2504

**Sandy Burd**

---

**From:** kpurcell@acsalaska.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 2:09 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,  
Kevin Purcell  
315 Bias Dr  
Fairbanks, AK 99712-2504

Sandy Burd

---

From: fnlah3@uaf.edu  
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 2:01 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,  
Larry Hausmann  
Yukon Koyukuk Center  
PO Box 369  
Galena, AK 99741-0369

**Sandy Burd**

---

**From:** kmdolan@alaska.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 2:00 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,

As an alumna of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, I am dismayed to hear that the legislature and governor of Alaska would put forth a budget that doesn't even cover the fixed costs of the university. UA is a vital part of the future of our state by offering our kids a good education at a reasonable cost in areas that are in very high demand in our state.

Fixed costs are just that, fixed. They have to be paid and the money has to come from somewhere. If the state will not help UA cover those costs, the money will be taken out of much needed classroom space, top quality professors and researchers, and other critical areas. We can't expect to maintain an exceptional and award winning university without funding it adequately.

Please keep the future of Alaska strong and fully fund UA.

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 for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kellie Dolan  
1909 Kittiwake Dr. Apt. A  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

## Sandy Burd

---

From: afbh@uaa.alaska.edu  
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:50 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,

I am writing to you as a faculty member at UAA, concerned about making responsible and fiscally conservative decisions. The entire UA system, and UAA in particular are working hard at making the best use of the state appropriated funds. I urge you to encourage the University's efforts to save money and to better use existing funds.

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. In addition to meeting our needs today, this will continue to encourage UA to find new ways to save money in the future.

Sincerely,  
Bogdan Hoanca  
3211 Providence Dr, Room BEB 307J  
Computer and Information Systems  
Anchorage, AK 99508

## Sandy Burd

---

**From:** fnakt@uaf.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:48 PM  
**To:** Sen. Lyman Hoffman  
**Subject:** Stop the Senate UA Subcommittee from cutting the university's budget

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

Dear Senator Hoffman,

Please stop the Senate UA Subcommittee from cutting the university's budget. Encourage the chair, Senator Bert Stedman, and the members, Senators Elton, Hoffman, Huggins, Olson, Thomas & Dyson, from cutting the budget below the amount necessary to cover the university's fixed costs. If the Subcommittee budget reduces the funding UA needs for its fixed costs, please encourage Finance Chair, Senator Hoffman, and other members of the full Senate Finance Committee, to restore the funds in a Finance CS.

If the university is allowed to keep the employer cost savings they generate from the PERS/TRS fixes within its budget, they can cover their fixed costs without an increase in GF. Why is this a problem?

Sincerely,  
Amelia Topkok  
4783 Drake Street  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

## Sandy Burd

---

From: fnakt@uaf.edu  
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:47 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. All of the University degree programs are in high need, especially to those that may not have other access to higher education. This is especially true to those that choose to stay home in the rural Alaskan villages, and want to support their own community, and STILL take distance education classes to continue their higher education. Please support the University's goal in helping people in their dreams and becoming more educated.

Thank you for your sincere support.

Amelia K. Topkok

Sincerely,  
Amelia Topkok  
4783 Drake Street  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

**Sandy Burd**

---

**From:** anpgb2@uaa.alaska.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:45 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,  
Pat Borjon  
8211 Stratton Cir  
Anchorage, AK 99507

## Sandy Burd

---

**From:** ffjmb1@uaf.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:41 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,

James Bicigo 2011 Southern Avenue Fairbanks AK 99709

Sincerely,  
James Bicigo  
Dept. of Music  
Box 755660 UAF  
Fairbanks, AK 99775-5660

## Sandy Burd

---

**From:** andlh1@uaa.alaska.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:39 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, 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,  
D'Arcy Hutchings  
4105 Garfield St #5  
Anchorage, AK 99503

## Sandy Burd

---

**From:** mmc@mtaonline.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:38 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 Curry  
5181 Outrigger Dr.  
Wasilla, AK 99687

## Sandy Burd

---

**From:** anjem@uaa.alaska.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:37 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,

Please support an amendment to adequately fund UA especially the basic fixed costs. My granddaughter is pursuing a degree in Nursing, and is doing very well. I believe oil and gas industry is critical to our state as is construction. Therefore, I would like to see programs in Engineering, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management supported. They can be paid for with savings in the UA budget.

Sincerely,  
J Merry  
7706 Linda Lane  
Anchorage, AK 99518

## Sandy Burd

---

**From:** aftjh@uaa.alaska.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:37 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,  
Tim Hinterberger  
7021 East Tree Court  
Anchorage, AK 99507

## Sandy Burd

---

**From:** rfdlm@uaf.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:36 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,  
Deborah McLean-Nelson  
Bristol Bay Campus  
PO Box 1070  
Dillingham, AK 99576-1070

**Sandy Burd**

---

**From:** anko@uaa.alaska.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:32 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,  
KaLynn Coffey  
3721 W. 79th Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99502

**Sandy Burd**

---

**From:** yukonville@hotmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:28 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,  
Laurii Woodruff  
PO Box 10626  
Fairbanks, AK 99710

## Sandy Burd

---

**From:** katherine.spangler@uas.alaska.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:26 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,

Dear Fred

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.

We can't afford to let the university down.  
K

Sincerely,  
Katy Spangler  
10207 Chain of Rock  
Eagle River, AK 99577

**Sandy Burd**

---

**From:** dora\_gropp@chugachelectric.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:25 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. If we do not fund these programs, our students will leave the State and seek education elsewhere. Once they leave, only a few come back. We need engineers, we need a university that our high school students can afford to attend!

Sincerely,  
Dora Gropp  
6728 Dimond Blvd.  
Anchorage, AK 99502

**Sandy Burd**

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**From:** afbch@uaa.alaska.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:23 PM  
**To:** Sen. Lyman Hoffman  
**Subject:** Stop the Senate UA Subcommittee from cutting the university's budget

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

Dear Senator Hoffman,

Please reconsider contemplated Senate UA Subcommittee action to cut the university's budget. There is positive momentum at the university right now. Students are coming in greater numbers, and income is increasing. Please retain funding in the amount necessary to cover the university's fixed costs. Any university needs support from the public or from private endowments. UA is doing good things for the young people of the state, and for many mid-career students who are changing in response to changing economic conditions.

If the university is allowed to keep the employer cost savings they generate from the PERS/TRS fixes within its budget, they can cover their fixed costs without an increase in GF. Why is this a problem?

Sincerely,  
Bonny Headley  
919 David Place  
Anchorage, AK 99501

## Sandy Burd

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**From:** sarah.strickling@uas.alaska.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:23 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.

Alaska needs higher education. Alaska needs education period.  
Alaska ranks at the very bottom for education in the nation.  
Investing in education is essential. Don't let us down, help Alaska reach its goal to be educated!

Sincerely,  
J. Sarah Strickling  
2438 3rd Ave.  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

## Sandy Burd

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From: tsijk@uas.alaska.edu  
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:23 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.

I am currently a college student - which perhaps is my bias. I find it difficult to understand why money is being cut for the very institutions that produce Alaskan leaders and which bring people from around the Nation and world to remote Alaska.

To cut funding towards education in my mind, is a statement to us, to the public - their are more important things then education. A percept of value and principal in every society around the world, and state and national legislation continues to hack away at its needed funding - presumably without clear need or reason.

Convince me that education is not important, and I may agree with the cutting of funding. If you fail to convince me, then you've committed two faults - lied to me and undercut a valuable asset to society - Education.

Sincerely,  
Forest Kvasnikoff  
PO Box 210811  
Juneau, AK 99821

**Sandy Burd**

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**From:** ffvab@uaf.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:21 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,  
Valerie Barber  
Box 6410  
Sitka, AK 99835

## Sandy Burd

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**From:** jandsitka@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:21 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,  
Linda Johnston  
1211 Georgeson Loop  
Sitka, AK 99835

## Sandy Burd

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From: ansmh3@uaa.alaska.edu  
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:19 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,  
Steven Halcomb  
8850 Pioneer Dr.  
Anchorage, AK 99504

## Sandy Burd

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**From:** afbch@uaa.alaska.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:15 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,  
Bonny Headley  
919 David Place  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**Sandy Burd**

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From: jekrebs@mac.com  
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:14 PM  
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman  
Subject: Stop the Senate UA Subcommittee from cutting the university's budget

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

Dear Senator Hoffman,

Please stop the Senate UA Subcommittee from cutting the university's budget. Encourage the chair, Senator Bert Stedman, and the members, Senators Elton, Hoffman, Huggins, Olson, Thomas & Dyson, from cutting the budget below the amount necessary to cover the university's fixed costs. If the Subcommittee budget reduces the funding UA needs for its fixed costs, please encourage Finance Chair, Senator Hoffman, and other members of the full Senate Finance Committee, to restore the funds in a Finance CS.

If the university is allowed to keep the employer cost savings they generate from the PERS/TRS fixes within its budget, they can cover their fixed costs without an increase in GF. Why is this a problem?

Sincerely,  
Jocelyn Krebs  
5039 Randi Ct  
Eagle River, AK 99577

**Sandy Burd**

---

**From:** jekrebs@mac.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:14 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, WWAMI, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, and Construction Management can be paid for with savings in the UA budget. Support an amendment to adequately fund UA.

Sincerely,  
Jocelyn Krebs  
5039 Randi Ct  
Eagle River, AK 99577

**Sandy Burd**

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**From:** fnhec@uaf.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:14 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. I strong request that you support an amendment to adequately fund UA. Not doing so will only short change the students attending our higher educational institutions across this great state.

Sincerely,  
Helen Connor  
PO Box 82551  
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Sandy Burd

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From: ASBBY@uaa.alaska.edu  
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:14 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,  
Brian Yanity  
1046 W. 26th Ave.  
Apt. #210  
Anchorage, AK 99503

## Sandy Burd

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From: snljh@email.alaska.edu  
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:13 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,  
Linda Hall  
1909 Kittiwake Dr #A  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

## Sandy Burd

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From: pdenny@asf.alaska.edu  
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:10 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,  
Patrick Denny  
1804 Caribou Way  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

**Sandy Burd**

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**From:** axab@uaa.alaska.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:09 PM  
**To:** Sen. Lyman Hoffman  
**Subject:** Support to fund UA's fixed costs

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

Dear Senator Hoffman,

Please Support an amendment to adequately fund UA. 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.

Sincerely,  
Amber Brubaker  
2980 Drake Dr.  
Anchorage, AK 99508

## Sandy Burd

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**From:** afdpe@uaa.alaska.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:08 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. We need your help. UAA is already under funded compared to schools in the lower 48. Please help!

Sincerely,  
David Edgecombe, Ph.D  
3404 Vassar Dr.  
Anchorage, AK 99508, AK 99508

## Sandy Burd

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From: rrobinso@alaska.net  
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2007 6:58 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,  
E. Tom Robinson  
3744 Mitchell Ave.  
Fairbanks, AK 99709 4635

**Sandy Burd**

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**From:** rrobinso@alaska.net  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 12, 2007 7:00 PM  
**To:** Sen. Lyman Hoffman  
**Subject:** Stop the Senate UA Subcommittee from cutting the university's budget

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

Dear Senator Hoffman,

Please stop the Senate UA Subcommittee from cutting the university's budget. Encourage the chair, Senator Bert Stedman, and the members, Senators Elton, Hoffman, Huggins, Olson, Thomas & Dyson, from cutting the budget below the amount necessary to cover the university's fixed costs. If the Subcommittee budget reduces the funding UA needs for its fixed costs, please encourage Finance Chair, Senator Hoffman, and other members of the full Senate Finance Committee, to restore the funds in a Finance CS.

If the university is allowed to keep the employer cost savings they generate from the PERS/TRS fixes within its budget, they can cover their fixed costs without an increase in GF. Why is this a problem?

Sincerely,  
E. Tom Robinson  
3744 Mitchell Ave.  
Fairbanks, AK 99709 4635

**Sandy Burd**

**From:** Sharon John [shmkjohn@unicom-alaska.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 12, 2007 8:59 PM  
**To:** Sen. Lyman Hoffman  
**Cc:** Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Kim Elton; Sen. Joe Thomas; agatha\_john-shields@lksd.org  
**Subject:** support for small charter school funding

I am a member of the Ayaprun Elitnaurvik Academic Policy Committee, the mother of 2 students at the school, a former teacher, and a registered voter in Bethel. I strongly support the \$200,000 adjustment in the Education budget for small charter schools. This past year, our school's enrollment fell below 150 for many reasons, including the war in Iraq and deployment of National Guard troops. If the supplemental funds for small charter schools had not been available, we would have had to cut 1 or 2 teachers, and several teacher aide positions for the 2007-08 school year. Since we received approximately \$80,000 from the special funding for small charter schools, we will have a stable program next year.

I am very proud of our school, since our students learn in both Yup'ik and English, gaining a strong foundation during their elementary years. Parents and staff of other small charter schools are equally dedicated to their programs, and we appreciate your support of alternative education programs - especially for Alaska Native children.

Thank you.

Sharon D. John  
4202 R W Way  
P O Box 2716  
Bethel AK 99559