

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1903-1906

3214.79 HESS HB 215 - HB 231

North Slope Borough Health and Social Services Agency

Box 69
Barrow, Alaska 99723

(907) 852-3999
(907) 852-3065

22 March 1984

Adelheid Herrmann
Alaska State Representative
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
Attention: Debra Greenberg

Dear Representative Herrmann;

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the North Slope Borough Health & Social Services Agency to express our support of House Bill 548. Our Health Aides put in 24-hour on call coverage, seven days a week in order to alleviate pain and illness. This statement of State Support for the work they perform is greatly appreciated.

Since the bill, as currently written, appears to eliminate the North Slope Borough from consideration, I understand that you are taking steps to substitute or add language that would admit our Municipal Status.

The Borough is not a Non Profit Corporation as stated in paragraph 18.28.040 (2), nor are we a tribal organization.....paragraph 18.28.050 (2)(A). The North Slope Borough is a Home Rule Borough and a municipal corporation.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Stackhouse

Michael Stackhouse
Director
Health & Social Services Agency
North Slope Borough

cc: MS files
LB files
Files

LB:MS:hl



KODIAK AREA NATIVE ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 1277 - Kodiak, Alaska 99615-1277 - Phone (907) 486-5725

March 14, 1984

Aidelaïd Herman
Chairperson Bush Caucus
Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska
99811

To The Honorable Aidelaïd Herman,

This letter is in reference to HB 548 regarding Community Health Aides.

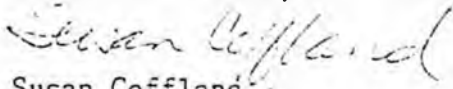
The Community Health Aide Program is the central and most crucial aspect of health care in rural Alaska. The Community Health Aides have been and continues to be of vital importance to their people since they are the first person to assist the patient in rural communities.

Medical technology and knowledge is continually developing and changing, so our health aides must continue to grow in knowledge in order to keep up with current trends in medicine and thereby provide the most optimum care for the patient. Continuing Education programs are the most efficient way to provide training on medical technology changes to the Community Health Aides. Funding for supervision and training programs is needed to have the health aides provide optimum recognition and care of medical problems.

The Kodiak Area Native Association supports House Bill 548 and hope members of the House will support it and thereby the medical needs of rural Alaska.

Sincerely,

KODIAK AREA NATIVE ASSOCIATION
Gordon L. Pullar, President.


Susan Coffland,
Health Director

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION

P.O. Box 528
Bethel, Alaska 99559
(907) 543-3321

Representative Tony Vaska
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

March 12, 1984

Dear Representative Vaska:

The Otitis Media/Special Ear Program would like to extend its support of House Bill No. 548.

From our visits to the villages and discussions with the health aides, poor salaries and lack of training are the two main areas of job dissatisfaction. Funding of House Bill 548 would specifically address these areas and hopefully decrease the present health aide attrition rate.

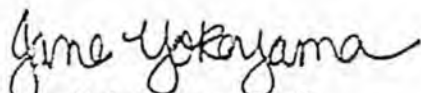
As a Bethel - based health program which travels to villages in the Yukon - Kuskokwim area, we can appreciate the tremendous responsibilities and workload placed on our health aides. Often, they work evenings to help visiting hospital and YKHC staff and receive no monetary compensation. Health aides in the Yukon - Kuskokwim area are the lowest paid in the state. Due to the high turnover, we see primary and alternate health aides having to provide medical care with little or no training. All too often, partially trained health aides quit in frustration and the vicious cycle begins again. Last year the attrition rate for health aides in this area was 27%! This year our program found itself meeting new health aides with little or no training on ear exams in over a third of the villages we visited.


By channeling more funds into training and salaries, health aide satisfaction will increase, the attrition rate will drop, and better medical care will be received in the villages. In addition, the overall cost for health aide services and training will decrease due to fewer new health aides needing to be trained.

We strongly urge you to support House Bill 548.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,


Jane Yokoyama, PA-C
Otology Specialist


Jesse Gunlik
Ear Program Assistant
Otitis Media/Special Ear Project



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

March 2, 1984

ALASKA AREA NATIVE HEALTH SERVICE
BOX 7-741
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

Refer to: A-D (A-CHAP)

Robert London Smith, Ph.D.
Commissioner
Department of Health and
Social Services
Pouch H-01
Juneau, Alaska 99811



Dear Commissioner Smith:

I have just reviewed HB 548, "An act relating to state assistance for Community Health Aide Programs; and providing for an effective date." I would like to go on record as supporting this significant legislation in terms of the Community Health Aide Program (CHAP).

As Director of the Alaska Area Native Health Service, I have come to know and appreciate the importance of the CHAP in helping to make possible an improved health status of Alaskan Natives. Community Health Aides (CHAs) are located in 171 isolated communities, from Point Hope to Kasaan. They provide year round primary health care coverage. Not only does this coverage consist of emergency and acute care, it also embraces a wide range of health surveillance and other preventive activities. Drugs may be administered by a CHA under a physician's direction. The CHA, then, represents the front line in the delivery of health care, the link between village residents and the appropriate health care backup system.

The foundation of the CHAP is formed by a consistent training program, which includes a published curriculum and skills list. Using established guidelines and tested approaches to training, health care professionals, whether in the training centers or the field, are better able to relate to training needs of the CHAs. CHA certification is offered to those CHAs who are able to acquire the skills and successfully meet other training requirements. Certification is a milestone for a CHA in the acquisition of specified competencies, and it indicates that a CHA may practice safely with an high level of independence. The term "practitioner" is often used when referring to CHAs who have reached the certificate level.

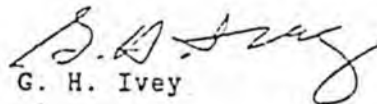
Commissioner Smith
Community Health Aide Program
March 2, 1984

Page 2

The difficulty of making appropriate health care accessible and cost-effective to sparsely populated and widely scattered villages remains an acute problem in many countries. The achievements of the CHAP in helping to reduce this health care service gap in rural Alaska has repeatedly been recognized and acknowledged by health care professionals. The CHAP has been regarded by the World Health Organization as a model program because of its success in utilizing the village resident in improving his own health status.

With the passage of HB 548, significant resources will be made available. From the viewpoint of AANHS, the strong funding assistance proposed in the bill is welcomed and encouraged. This bill will allow not only for program maintenance but also for continued growth and improvement. Passage of this bill will also see the State of Alaska making a much-appreciated budget commitment to the overall program. It is apparent that if the configuration of well-trained CHAs providing primary health care services from small rural clinics is to be maintained and enhanced, the combined resources of the State of Alaska, the Regional Health Corporations, and AANHS will be required.

Sincerely,



G. H. Ivey
Director

Alaska Area Native Health Service

H6 5 13
PO Box 346
Bethel, Alaska 99559

February 21, 1984

FEB 27 1984

Tony Vaska
Pouch V-M/S 3100
Juneau, Alaska 99811

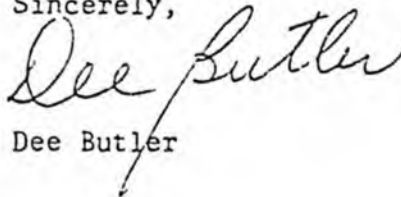
Dear Mr. Vaska:

Health Aides are the very foundation of health care on the Delta. Responsibility for their patients falls on their shoulders 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As important as health aides are to the Delta's medical program, their remuneration would indicate the opposite to be true.

Health Aide turnover is frequent. The state loses money when trained Health Aides quit their positions because financial rewards do not compensate for stress felt on their jobs.

I would encourage you to support greater funding of the health aide program to 1) make training available to a greater number of applicants, and 2) to increase the health aide pay scale to more accurately reflect the demands of the position.

Sincerely,



Dee Butler

MAR 14 1984

AVCP

Association of Village Council Presidents
P. O. Box 219 • Bethel, Alaska 99559 • Phone 543-3521

COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM (CHAP)

RESOLUTION # 83-10-04

AVCP RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO
PROVIDE FUNDS FOR SALARY INCREASE AND TRAINING OF COMMUNITY
HEALTH AIDES IN THE STATE OF ALASKA.....

- WHEREAS, the Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) is the mainstay and the key element to an effectively functioning health system in Rural Alaska and particularly in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta;
- WHEREAS, the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation Community Health Aide Program is the largest program in the entire State of Alaska, comprised of about 130 health aides and 12 administrative/supervisory employees, serving the primary health care needs of around 13 000 inhabitants in 48 villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, excluding Bethel;
- WHEREAS, for the past fifteen years of its formal existence, the Community Health Aide Program in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta had distinguished itself in accomplishing the original goals and objectives aside from its being constantly aware of its original mandate and mission;
- WHEREAS, the individual health aide in each Yukon-Kuskokwim village had contributed immensely and is committed to the delivery of quality primary health care to each and every villager now and in the future;
- WHEREAS, the winds of change that affect us all place increasing demands on the entire health system including the Community Health Aide Program which makes it necessary to provide more stability in the administration and supervision of health aides and more training to our health aides in order to meet newer and more sophisticated demands from, wants and needs of the villagers;
- WHEREAS, to accomplish the above, there is a crying need for all types of support from all of us living here in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and from other sectors outside of the Delta;
- WHEREAS, moral and human services support for each individual health aide are essential and are within the capabilities of each one of us;
- WHEREAS, it is well documented that our health aides in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta are the lowest paid health care providers

AVCP

Association of Village Council Presidents
P. O. Box 219 • Bethel, Alaska 99559 • Phone 543-3521

COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM (CHAP)

RESOLUTION # 83-10-04

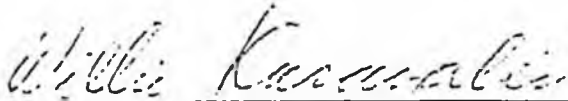
in the entire State of Alaska and the lowest paid health aides among the 12 native health corporation Community Health Aide Programs;

WHEREAS, The Regional Health Directors of the 12 native health corporations are in the process of developing a bill through the State legislature to address these inequities in the Community Health Aide salary structures and the Community Health Aide Training needs on a Statewide basis;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AVCP fully support the intent, the thrust and the content of the above-named legislative proposal;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AVCP fully support and encourages any and all individual and/or collective efforts to provide needed human services, moral, financial and other forms of support for our health aides which would surely redound to the benefit of each and every inhabitant in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region.

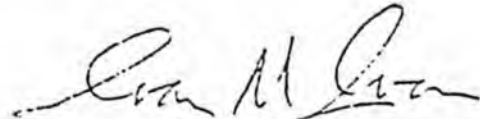
Passed and approved this 14 day of October, 1983



Willie Kasayulie, Chairman

10/14/83

DATE



Ivan M. Ivan, President

10/14/83

DATE SIGNED



**South Central
Health Planning and Development, Inc.**

1135 West Eighth Avenue • Suite 1 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501

(907) 278-3631

February 29, 1984

Honorable Adelheid Herrmann
Alaska State House of
Representatives
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Herrmann:

Re: HB 548 Relating to Community Health Aide Training and Support

The full Board of South Central Health Planning and Development, Inc., met on February 25, 1984. The proposed bill to provide funding for Community Health Aide training was discussed fully. A motion to support the concepts of HB 548 was passed unanimously.

The Community Health Aide program continues to be the most effective, least costly, and best accepted health care service in rural Alaska. I urge you to act expediently to support this Bill.

Sincerely,

Steve Lesko
President

Attachment

SL/ab

SOUTH CENTRAL HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.

PRESENT STATUS OF FULL BOARD MEMBERS

Subarea #1 - Aleutian Chain

Consumer: Marie Osterback
P.O. Box 156
Sand Point, Alaska 99661
Home: 383-2363

Subarea #2 - Municipality of Anchorage

Provider: Sharon Anderson
112 Fish Hatchery Road
Eagle River, Alaska 99577
Home: 468-9064
Work: 276-1131 (ext. 330)

Consumer: Laura Lee Calhoun
Star Route A, Box 20461
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
Home: 344-7463
Work: 276-1333

Provider: Bill Faulkner
2011 Atwood Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Home: 272-5091
Work: 272-2557

Consumer: Peter Gallagher
1766 Morningtide
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Home: 279-4197
Work: 786-1426

Provider: Steve Lesko
6417 Blackberry
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
Home: 243-7438
Work: 274-1581

Consumer: Lillie McGarvey
4200o Tahoe Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
Home: 243-1078

Consumer: Bonnie McGee
4812 Sundi Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
Home: 243-5566

Consumer: Julie Miller
3701 Eureka, Space 57A
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone: 276-1800 (TTY)
Home: 561-0588

Consumer: Bill Orfitelli
P.O. Box 42327
Anchorage, Alaska 99509
Work: 345-2813

Vacant Seat 2-1C
Vacant Seat 2-2C
Vacant Seat 2-3C
Vacant Seat 2-2P
Vacant Seat 2-4P
Vacant Seat 2-6P
Vacant Seat 2-7P

Subarea #3 - Bristol Bay

Provider: Bob Appel
Box 2779
Dillingham, Alaska 99576
Home: 842-5214
Work: 842-5266

Subarea #4 - Cook Inlet

Consumer: Karen Carpenter
Star Route, Box 40
Anchor Point, Alaska 99556
Home: 235-6381

Consumer: Rose Ida Hendricks
P.O. Box 874471
Wasilla, Alaska 99687
Home: 376-3334
Work: 376-3334/562-3146

Consumer: Gloria Okeson
Box 86
Palmer, Alaska 99645
Home: 745-3091

Provider: Beth Taeschner
Box: 56
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
Home: 262-4287
Work: 262-4344

Consumer: Robert Niebrugge
P.O. Box 365
Glennallen, Alaska 99588
Home: 822-3256
Work: 822-3823

Subarea #6 = Kodiak Island

Provider: Daniel Van Wieringen
P.O. Box 1167
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
Home: 486-5959
Work: 486-3281

Subarea #6 = North Pacific Rim

Provider: Jonathan Sewall
Box 1184
Seward, Alaska 99664
Home: 224-3577
Work: 224-5205 (ext. 207)

Subarea #7 = Norton Sound

Provider: Carolyn Michels
P.O. Box 966
Nome, Alaska 99762
Home: 443-2026
Work: 443-5411 (ext 202)

Subarea #7 = Yukon-Kuskokwim

Consumer: Louise Charles
P.O. Box 663
Bethel, Alaska 99559
Home: 543-2954

Provider: George Peratrovich
P.O. Box 528
Bethel, Alaska 99559
Home: 543-2478
Work: 543-3321

IHS Representational Liaison

Diane Muri
Alaska Area Native Health Service
Box 7-741
Anchorage, Alaska 99510
Work: 265-3312

Military Representational Liaison

Colonel Lester Parker
Hospital Administrator
Elmendorf AFB Hospital
Elmendorf, Alaska 99506
Work: 205-9312

TO: SENATOR BOB MULCAHY ⁴
REPRESENTATIVE ADELHEID HERRMANN
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER, CHAIRPERSON OF THE HESS COMMITTEE
POUCH V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

FROM: JANET NORMAN, COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE, P.O. BOX 116, NAKNEK, ALASKA
99633

SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL 548

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 548. I FEEL THAT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I AM SEEKING YOUR HELP TO GET THE BILL MOVED OUT OF THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED.

TO: SENATOR BOB MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE ADELHEID HERRMANN
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER, CHAIRPERSON OF THE HESS COMMITTEE
POUCH V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

FROM: IMOGENE GARDINER, COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE, CLARKS POINT, ALASKA 99569

SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL 548

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 548. I FEEL THAT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I AM SEEKING YOUR HELP TO GET THE BILL MOVED OUT OF THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED.

SENT BY A.M. SORENSEN, DLG LIO

4

MSG 84-00021541 PRY 1 03/07/84 09:34:24 ORIG: LI00 IN= 0004 OUT= 0032
FROM: ANNA MAY, DILLINGHAM TO: JUNEAU INFORMATION
TARGET: LJHK SUBJ: PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGES

TO: SENATOR BOB MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE ADELHEID HERRMANN
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER, CHAIR. OF THE HESS COMMITTEE
FROM: MARGARET K. ECHUCK, COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE, GEN. DEL. PLATINUM,
ALASKA 99651
SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL 548

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 548. I FEEL THAT THIS IS AN
IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I AM SEEKING
YOUR HELP TO GET THE BILL MOVED OUT OF THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED.

TO: SENATOR BOB MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE ADELHEID HERRMANN
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER, CHAIRPERSON, HESS COMMITTEE
POUCH V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
FROM: LYDIA SCHOUTEN, COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE, GOODNEWS BAY, ALASKA 99569
SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL 548

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR HB 548. I FEEL THAT THIS IS AN
IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I AM
SEEKING YOUR HELP TO GET THE BILL MOVED OUT OF THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED.

TO: SENATOR BOB MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE ADELHEID HERRMANN
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER, CHAIRPERSON, HESS COMMITTEE
POUCH V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
FROM: HELEN C. GROAT, COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE, GEN. DEL. NAKNEK, ALASKA
99633
SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL 548

I SUPPORT HOUSEBILL 548. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE
IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I AM SEEKING YOUR HELP TO GET THE BILL MOVED OUT OF
THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED.

021601 PRY 1 03/07/94 08:57 56 ORIG: L100 IN# 0002 OUT# 0003
FROM ANNA MAY, DILLINGHAM TO: JUNEAU INFORMATION
TARGET: LUHK SUBJ: PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGES

SENATOR MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE HERRMANN
REPRESENTATIVE MAY TISCHER, HESS CHAIRPERSON
POUCH V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

FROM: VIRGINIA ALECK, COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE, CHIGNIK LAKE, ALASKA 99502
SUBJECT: HB 548

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR HOUSEBILL 548. I FEEL THAT THIS IS AN
IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I AM
SEEKING YOUR HELP TO GET THE BILL MOVED OUT OF THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED.

TO: SENATOR MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE HERRMANN
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER, HESS CHAIRPERSON
POUCH V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

FROM: WASSELIA NICKOLAI, PRIMARY COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE, EKWOK, ALASKA
99580

SUBJECT: HB 548

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR HOUSEBILL 548. I FEEL THAT THIS IS AN
IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I AM SEEK-
ING YOUR HELP TO GET THE BILL MOVED OUT OF THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED.

TO: SENATOR MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE HERRMANN
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER, HESS COMMITTEE CHAIR.

FROM: TATANIA KAPATOK, COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE, KOLIGANEK, ALASKA 99576

SUBJECT: HB 548

PLEASE SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 548. I FEEL THAT THIS AN IMPORTANT BILL THAT
BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I AM SEEKING YOUR HELP TO GET
THE BILL MOVED OUT OF THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED. THANK YOU.

TO: SENATOR BOB MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE ADELHEID HERRMANN
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER, HESS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

FROM: ANNIE WILSON, COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE. IGUIGIG, ALASKA 99613

SUBJECT: HB548

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 548. I FEEL THAT THIS IS AN
IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I AM SEEKING
YOUR HELP TO GET THE BILL MOVED OUT OF THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED.

SENT BY A.M. SORENSEN, DLG L10

MSG 94-00021703 PRTY 1 03/07/84 11:10:41 ORIG: LIOO IN= 0005 OUT= 0051
FROM: ANNA MAY, DILLINGHAM TO: JUNEAU INFORMATION
TARGET: LJHK SUBJ: PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGES

TO: SENATOR BOB MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE ADELHEID HERRMANN
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER, CHAIRPERSON OF THE HESS COMMITTEE
POUCH V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

FROM: CHARLES AARONS, M.D., DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576 (MEDICAL OFFICER AT
BRISTOL BAY AREA HOSP., 1978-82. PRIVATE PRACTICE, DILLINGHAM,
1982-PRESENT.

SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL 548

C.H.A.'S ARE ESSENTIAL FOR ME TO PROVIDE GOOD HEALTH CARE TO MY PATIENTS IN
VILLAGES, NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE. THIS INVESTMENT IS BETTER THAN PRACTICALLY
ANY OTHER ASPECT OF RURAL HEALTH CARE. HOSPITAL BASED PROGRAM SPENDING IS OF
LITTLE HELP TO - MAJORITY OF RURAL ALASKA RESIDENTS WITHOUT ADEQUATE C.H.A.
TRAINING, FUNDING.

TO: SENATOR BOB MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE ADELHEID HERRMANN
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER, CHAIR PERSON OF THE HESS COMMITTEE
POUCH V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

FROM: DENISE J. SMITH ROBERTS, PHYSICIANS ASSISTANT, GEN. DEL. DILLINGHAM,
ALASKA 99576 (SOUTH NAKNEK COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE & PHYSICIANS ASS'T.)

SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL 548

I SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 548. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE
IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I AM SEEKING YOUR HELP TO GET THE BILL MOVED OUT OF
THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED. THANK YOU.

SENT BY A.M. SORENSEN, DLG LIO

MSG 24-00020260 PRTY 1 03/02/84 15:09:43 ORIG: LIOO IN= 0007 OUT= 0102
FROM: DOROTHY IN DILLINGHAM TO: JUREAU INFORMATION
TARGET: LJKK SUBJ: PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

3

TO: REPRESENTATIVE ADELHEID HERRMANN
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER

SENATOR BOB MULCAHY

FROM: BOB APPEL, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES,
BRISTOL BAY AREA HEALTH CORPORATION, BOX 10236, DILLINGHAM,
ALASKA 99576

SUBJECT: HB548 COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR HB548 THE BILL PROVIDING FUNDING FOR
COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PROGRAMS. I FEEL THAT THIS BILL WILL BE OF BENEFIT
TO HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA, AND THAT IT IS AN IMPORTANT BILL.

HELP IN GETTING IT MOVED OUT OF THE HOUSE AND
PASSED INTO LAW.

THANKS.

SENT BY D. LARSON, DLG. LIO

TO: SENATOR BOB MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE ADELHEID HERRMANN
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER, CHAIRPERSON, HESS COMMITTEE
POUCH V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

FROM: WENDY LAWLER, BOX 10235, ~~DILLINGHAM~~, ALASKA 99576

SUBJECT: ~~HOUSE BILL 548~~

I SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 548. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I AM SEEKING YOUR HELP TO GET THE BILL MOVED OUT OF THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED. THANK YOU.

TO: SENATOR MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE ~~HERRMANN~~
REPRESENTATIVE TISCHER, CHAIR. HESS COMMITTEE
POUCH V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

FROM: SADIE HAKENHULL, BOX 10235, ~~DILLINGHAM~~, ALASKA 99576

SUBJECT: ~~HOUSE BILL 548~~

I SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 548. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I AM SEEKING YOUR HELP TO GET THE BILL MOVED OUT OF THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED. THANK YOU.

TO: SENATOR MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE ~~HERRMANN~~
REPRESENTATIVE TISCHER, CHAIRPERSON, HESS COMMITTEE
POUCH V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

FROM: LAURA GORMAN, BOX 315, ~~DILLINGHAM~~, ALASKA 99576

SUBJECT: ~~HOUSE BILL 548~~

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 548. I FEEL THAT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I AM SEEKING YOUR HELP TO GET THE BILL MOVED OUT OF THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED.

TO: SENATOR BOB MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE ~~HERRMANN~~
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER, CHAIR., HESS COMMITTEE
POUCH V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

FROM: NANCY WITTERHOLT, M.P.H., BOX 10235, ~~DILLINGHAM~~, ALASKA 99576

SUBJECT: ~~HOUSE BILL 548~~

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 548. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I AM SEEKING YOUR HELP TO GET THE BILL MOVED OUT OF THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED. THANK YOU.

SENT BY ANNA MAY SORENSEN, DLG LIO

TO: SENATOR BOB MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE ADELHEID HERRMANN
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER, CHAIR, HESS COMMITTEE
POUCH V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

FROM: RON PERKINS, BOX 10235, ~~DILLINGHAM~~, ALASKA 99576

SUBJECT: ~~HOUSE BILL 548~~

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THIS BILL. I FEEL THIS IS AN IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I AM SEEKING YOUR HELP TO GET THE BILL MOVED OUT OF THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED.

TO: SENATOR BOB MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE ADELHEID ~~HERRMANN~~
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER, CHAIRPERSON, HESS COMMITTEE
POUCH V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

FROM: JACKIE KNUTSEN, BOX 187, ~~DILLINGHAM~~, ALASKA 99576

SUBJECT: ~~HOUSE BILL 548~~

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 548. AN IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I AM SEEKING YOUR HELP TO GET THE BILL MOVED OUT OF THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED.

TO: SENATOR BOB MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE ADELHEID ~~HERRMANN~~
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER
POUCH V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

FROM: RUSSELL NELSON, BOX 85, ~~DILLINGHAM~~, ALASKA 99576

SUBJECT: ~~HOUSE BILL 548~~

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 548. I FEEL THIS IS AN IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I AM SEEKING YOUR HELP ON THIS BILL.

TO: SENATOR BOB MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE ADELHEID ~~HERRMANN~~
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER
POUCH V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

FROM: PANDY BECK, R.N., BOX 10235, ~~DILLINGHAM~~, ALASKA 99576

SUBJECT: ~~HOUSE BILL 548~~

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR THIS BILL. I FEEL THIS IS AN IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I AM SEEKING YOUR HELP TO GET THE BILL MOVED OUT OF THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED.

MSG 84-00022338 PRY 1 03/08/84 13:57:49 ORIG: LI00 IN= 0002 OUT= 0104
TO: ANNA HAY, DILLINGHAM TO: JUNEAU INFORMATION
TARGETS LHM JRM PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGES

TO: SENATOR BOB MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE ADELHEID HERRMANN
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER, CHAIRPERSON, HESS COMMITTEE
POUCH V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
FROM: ANN. N. COSKEY, BOX 10235, ~~DILLINGHAM~~, ALASKA 99576
SUBJECT: ~~HOUSE BILL 548~~

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 548. I FEEL THAT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I AM SEEKING YOUR HELP TO GET THE BILL MOVED OUT OF THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED.

TO: SENATOR BOB MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE ADELHEID ~~HERRMANN~~
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER, CHAIRPERSON, HESS COMMITTEE
POUCH V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
FROM: CORY C. SUCHMAN, P.O. BOX 2823, ~~DILLINGHAM~~, ALASKA 99576
~~HOUSE BILL 548~~

I SUPPORT HOUSEBILL 548. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. PLEASE HELP TO GET THE BILL MOVED OUT OF THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED.

TO: SENATOR BOB MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE ADELHEID ~~HERRMANN~~
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER, CHAIRPERSON, HESS COMMITTEE
POUCH V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
FROM: THOMAS TILDEN, BOX 10152, ~~DILLINGHAM~~, ALASKA 99576
SUBJECT: ~~HOUSE BILL 548~~

I SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 548. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I AM SEEKING YOUR HELP IN GETTING THIS BILL MOVED OUT OF THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED. THANK YOU.

TO: SENATOR BOB MULCAHY
REPRESENTATIVE ADELHEID ~~HERRMANN~~
REPRESENTATIVE MAE TISCHER, CHAIR., HESS COMMITTEE
POUCH V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
FROM: MARY CLARK, BOX 2792, ~~DILLINGHAM~~, ALASKA 99576
SUBJECT: ~~HOUSE BILL 548~~

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR THIS BILL. I FEEL THIS IS AN IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. PLEASE HELP TO GET THE BILL MOVED OUT OF THE HESS COMMITTEE AND PASSED.

~~THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES~~ ~~ALABAMA~~ ~~LEGISLATURE~~ ~~MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1968~~

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH AID PROGRAMS IN RURAL ALABAMA.

TO: REPRESENTATIVE HERRMANN, DISTRICT 24
REPRESENTATIVE FISHER, CHAIR, HEALTH AID COMMITTEE
SENATOR MULLANY, DISTRICT 11

FROM: KENNETH CROOKS, DENTIST, BRISTOL SANITARY HOSPITAL
BOX 10235, DIBLINGHAM, ALABAMA 36526 - 10235

RE: COMMUNITY HEALTH AID PROGRAM ASSISTANCE TO 540

PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION BY SENATOR MULLANY AND SENATOR FISHER CONCERNING THE HEALTH AID PROGRAMS IN RURAL ALABAMA. I WILL BE AVAILABLE TO YOU AT ANY TIME TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER. I AM SURE YOU WILL DO WHAT YOU CAN TO SEE THAT THIS PROGRAM IS PASSED AND LEGISLATED IN THIS SESSION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

REPRESENTATIVE HERRMANN, DISTRICT 24
REPRESENTATIVE FISHER, CHAIR, HEALTH AID COMMITTEE
SENATOR MULLANY, DISTRICT 11

FROM: DONNA J. TROYER, NIAACCP LAB SUPERVISOR, BRISTOL SANITARY
AREA HOSPITAL, BOX 10235, DIBLINGHAM, ALABAMA 36526

HE 542

~~THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES~~ ~~ALABAMA~~ ~~LEGISLATURE~~ ~~MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1968~~
THIS BILL IS IMPORTANT AND BENEFICIAL TO THE PEOPLE OF RURAL ALABAMA. URGE YOUR SUPPORT AND YOUR HELP IN SEEING THAT THIS BILL IS PASSED IN THIS SESSION.

HE 542

TO: MARY J. BIZZOBA 09/11/84 09:11:23 (316) 3 1 4 00 1 1 9 0007
FROM: BILL GARD
SUBJECT: MY OPINION MESSAGES

4
REPRESS/REALIVE--HERRMANN DISTRICT 22
REPRESENTATIVE FISCHER, CHAIR OF THE REST OF--OFFICE
LEGISLATOR MURPHY, DISTRICT 11

FROM: IVE WILSON, MD, BRISTOL BAY AREA HOSPITAL BOX 1115
PINEBLUFFS PLACKA 99576 - PHONE 840-5101

SUBJECT: HB 548

~~THE MESSAGE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR HB 548. FEEL THAT THIS IS A VERY
IMPORTANT BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALABAMA. I
WILL MAKE APPEARANCE IN GETTING THE BILL MOVED OUT OF THE BILL COMMITTEE
SCHEDULE TRACK 100.~~

TO: REPRESENTATIVE HERRMANN, DISTRICT 22
REPRESENTATIVE FISCHER, CHAIR, REST COMMITTEE
LEGISLATOR MURPHY, DISTRICT 11

FROM: JAMIE M. WILSON, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, BRISTOL BAY AREA
HOSPITAL, BOX 10055, DILLINGHAM, ALABAMA - P- 840-5101

SUBJECT: HB 548

THE MESSAGE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR HB 548. THIS BILL IS VERY
IMPORTANT AND WOULD BENEFIT THE WELL-BEING OF THOSE IN RURAL ALABAMA.
I WILL MAKE APPEARANCE IN GETTING THE BILL MOVED OUT OF THE BILL
COMMITTEE TO PASSAGE. THANK YOU.

TO: REPRESENTATIVE HERRMANN, DISTRICT 22
REPRESENTATIVE FISCHER, CHAIR, REST COMMITTEE
LEGISLATOR MURPHY, DISTRICT 11

FROM: MERVINE BOW, SR. VOICE, DILLINGHAM ALABAMA - P- 840-5101

SUBJECT: HB 548 - HEALTH CARE

WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST FOR HB 548 AND THAT YOU CONTACT YOU TO
MOVE THE BILL TO BE THE REST COMMITTEE. THIS COMMITTEE TO HEALTH CARE
PROGRAMS WILL BE A BENEFIT TO RESIDENTS OF OUR RURAL AREA.

105 84-0001-170 1071 05/14/84 11:33:04 ORIG L 01 P 01007 LIT 0124
TO: DOROTHY IN DILLINGHAM TO: BUREAU INFORMATION
SUBJECT: LHM LHM PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGES

4

TO: REPRESENTATIVE ADELHEID HERRMANN, DISTRICT 26
REPRESENTATIVE MAE FISCHER, CHAIR, HESS COMMITTEE
SENATOR BOB MULCAHY, DISTRICT 4
FROM: JAMES RICKARD, BOX 10235
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576
SUBJECT: HRS48, COMMUNITY HEALTH AID PROGRAM

1
I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR HRS48. I FEEL THAT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT
BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA. I WOULD HELP IN
MOVING THE BILL OUT OF THE HESS COMMITTEE AND URGE PASSAGE.

MSG 14-00024350 FTTT 03/14/84 11:41:53 ORIG: LIO IN# 0008 OLT# 0053
FROM: DOROTHY SH DILLINGHAM TO: JUNEAU INFO
SUBJECT: UJM- SUBJ: PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

REPRESENTATIVE ABELHEID HERRMANN, DISTRICT 10
REPRESENTATIVE PAE TISCHER, CHAIR, HESE COMMITTEE

SENATOR BOB MULLIKY, DISTRICT 4

JAMES RICHARD, BOX 10235, ~~DILLINGHAM~~ ALASKA 99576

10543, COMMUNIT HEALTH AID PROGRAM

~~WOMEN EXPRESS THE SUPPORT FOR HB292. I FEEL THAT THIS IS A~~
~~GOOD BILL THAT BENEFITS HEALTH CARE IN ALL OF RURAL ALASKA~~
~~PLEASE LET YOUR HELP IN GETTING THIS BILL MOVE OUT OF THE HOUSE~~
~~APPROVED AND ON IT BECOME LAW. THANK YOU.~~

END
DOROTHY SH DILLINGHAM, DLS, LIO

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION

P.O. Box 528
Bethel, Alaska 99559
(907) 543-3321

March 7, 1984

Dear Sirs;

The the super. users and Administrators of more than
one hundred thriving community health aides in the Y-K- Delta
wish to request your full support of House Bill #548.
The training and support of CHA's which this bill addresses
is, we feel, as equally as important as the actual provision
of direct health services. The fact too, that in your own way,
your support of this Bill as Legislators is a wonderful
way of providing much-needed support for each and
every health aide in the State of Alaska.

Thank you very much and Sincerely!

R. Lee Pinn, M.D.
Mary Peterson S/P
Lillian Andrew S/I
Mary C. Nauwal, J/C
Robin He
Barbara Petrovich

Mary Wassilie CHA
Pilot Station, Alaska
99650

Representative
Hartlbert
Juneau, Alaska

3/8/84

I am in support of
House bill 548

Thank you

Mary Wassilie
CHA
Pilot Station,
Alaska

rec'd 3/13/84

HB 548 = Community Health Aide Program

1/27 HESS

Annie Greene

Petit Station.

3/8/84.

Representative Herbert.
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Sir,

I am in support of
House bill number 548.

Thank you.

Annie Greene. P.S.

CHA

Alaska State Legislature

MAR 14 1984

COMMITTEES

Co-Chairman — Use Resources
Committee
Chairman — REAA Budget Oversight
Committee
Member — House State Affairs
DCT — Finance Sub Committee



House of Representatives

While in Session:
Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau Alaska 99811
Phone (907) 465-4951
465-4940

Home - P.O. Box 355
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

Dick Shultz

March 13, 1984

Lorraine Jackson, Treasurer
Copper River Native Association
Drawer H
Copper Center, Alaska 99573

Dear Lorraine:

Thank you for your support on House Bill 548. I do support the bill (I am one of the co-sponsors). The bill has had a fairly "bumpy" time in the HESS Committee and is now being reviewed by Representative Hermanne and her office staff. I believe that when it comes to the Committee for its next hearing--I understand about 3 weeks from now--we should have an acceptable bill.

I do know the Health Aid Programs in the Rural Areas have decreased the amount of work treating patients at the local hospitals--especially in the Glennallen area. Previous to the work of the Village Health Clinics the work load of the doctors at Faith Hospital was becoming a worry to many residents of the area. Doctors in rural areas are always overworked and understaffed and any relief from their work load is beneficial to everyone.

Thank you for your input and I will follow and support HB 548.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dick".

Representative Dick Shultz

DS/spp

cc: Representative Hermanne

Anvik

Feb 21, 1983

Health Aide Service

YKHE

Bethel, Ak.

I'm writing this letter to support
Bill ⁵⁴⁸ ~~438~~ ^{HA}. I'm the health aide of Anvik since
1965. I don't have a Alt. HA. as of ~~now~~ now. I
work 7 d's a wk. on stand by 24 hrs a day.
I make a little over \$850.00 a mo. Sometime
that is not enough to feed my family.
I feel like I'm under payed.

Agnes Kruger

3/15/84

Dear Tony Vaska,

I would like to suggest that you
vote for House Bill #548. I'm

Health aides do not get nearly
enough money for what they do & for
the responsibility that they carry.
Voting "yes" would mean better pay
and therefore better quality health aides
& possibly due to good quality care we
could save lives. This bill is very
important to many residents in the
T-K delta. Please vote yes for House
Bill #548

Sincerely,

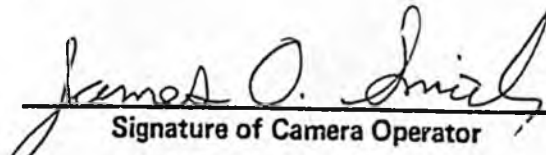
Hudi Halverson R.D.H.

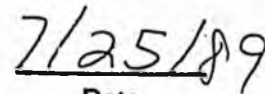


RECORDS CERTIFICATION



I, the undersigned, an employee of the State of Alaska, do hereby certify that the microfilm images on this microform are accurate reproductions of the original records of the State of Alaska as accumulated during the regular course of business, and that it is the established policy and practice of this State to microfilm its records and to dispose of the original records after microfilm reproductions have been made.


Signature of Camera Operator


Date

H B

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COMMITTEE REPORT
HOUSE

(7)

FURTHER:

3/15/85

Date: 3 APRIL

The Committee on HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES has had HB 226
"An Act relating to school boards."

under consideration and recommends:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for HF 226 same title
 new title
- and recommends DO PASS
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation Zero Fiscal Note Attached
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

David W. Simpson
George Hunter
William T. ...
Patricia ...
Mark ...

Neil ...
 CHAIRMAN

REPRESENTATIVE
SAM COTTEN
DISTRICT 15



PO BOX 296, EAGLE RIVER, AK 99577
POLICH V, JUNEAU, AK 99811

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MEMO

TO: Rep. Max Gruenberg RE: Request to schedule a hearing
Rep. Niilo Koponen for HB 226, an act relating
Co-Chairmen, House HESS to school boards

FROM: Rep. Sam Cotten DATE: March 22, 1985

There are three elements to this bill, all of which aim to improve representation on school boards:

-- The C&RA substitute for HB 226 would amend the statutes pertaining to the election of school board members in regional educational attendance areas (REAA). This amendment allows the Commissioner of Education to make an exception to the existing requirements on numbers of board members allowed per section upon determining that the REAA has "substantial population fluctuations" that result in over- or under-representation. Under these circumstances, the commissioner could permit a section containing more than one community to be represented by more members than currently allowed (under AS 14.08.051 (d)(2)). When this exception is made, no more than two board members may be elected from the same community.

For example, the Southeast Island School District consists of 2 sections and has a high population turnover, caused by its logging economy and such idiosyncracies as communities on floats. To ensure fair representation at this time the district would like to have a Thorne Bay section with one seat, and an at-large section with four seats. Current statutes won't allow this, requiring that each section (within a 5-member school board area) have no more than three seats. With existing law, the school district has no alternative but to continually request section boundary changes to accompany the shifting population. This is inefficient and impractical. The statutory change requested would allow more adequate representation. Due to the stringent limitations on board members per community, and the uniqueness of this school district's situation, this amendment would not currently affect any other REAAs.

-- HB 226 would allow school districts with more than 5,000 students to elect board members by district, if they so choose. School board members are now only elected at large. Election by district would allow residents of these larger school districts to have local representation on the board.

-- HB 226 would allow borough and city school districts with more than 5,000 students to expand the number of school board members from the present 7 up to 11, if they so choose. Having more board members again enhances the chances for better representation.

Southeast Island School District

640 Park Ave. - P.O. Box 8340 - Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 - (907) 225-9658 or 225-9659



March 6, 1985

Representative Peter Goll
Alaska House of Representatives
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Goll:

This is to follow up on earlier information sent to you expressing concern regarding AS 14.08.051, and its limitation on the number of board members which can be elected from a section in a regional educational attendance area which has been divided into sections (section (d) (2)).

My understanding of this limitation is that it is designed to prevent a large community in a given section from having the power, by virtue of number of votes, to elect more than a simple majority of members of the school board, effectively denying representation to smaller communities.

The problem that we have is that it is not practical for the Southeast Island School District to adhere to the statutory standards. Prior to mid-1983, this District was divided into two sections, one with two members from Thorne Bay and one at-large area with three members from the remaining communities. In mid-1983, the State reapportioned regional educational attendance area board sections in light of the 1980 census. This created several problems for this District. First, the census was grossly inaccurate for rural communities in southern Southeast Alaska. One of our communities with 200 people was listed on the census as having 0 residents. Areas that are federal bird sanctuaries were listed as having human residents, and so on. Second, to compound the census errors, this District experiences significant population changes in many, although not all, communities due to the nature of the economy in this part of the state. We have approximately a 50% student turnover annually, and frequently open up schools in new communities and close schools in areas which have suffered a population decline. In addition, we also have cases where entire communities, sometimes built on floats, move around the district.

Third, the population of the District had changed significantly since the 1970 census so that Thorne Bay had only about 20% of the population. Consequently, the recommended reapportionment reduced the Thorne Bay section from two seats to one, and created two additional sections along an arbitrary east-west line. The Southeast Island School District Board

Representative Peter Goll
March 6, 1985
Page Two

requested that the State establish a Thorne Bay section with one seat, and an at-large area with four seats. We were told that existing statutory limitations would not allow this, so we looked for some type of reasonable alternative. As a result of information supplied by this District, the State agreed to modify the line to reflect actual population at that time. Since the reapportionment, the usual changes have occurred. In 1982, the schools in the north and south sections had 39% and 45% of our student population (which can be used as a fairly reasonable measure of the general population). In 1983, just after the reapportionment along the new lines, each section had 41% of the student population; i.e. the sections did provide fair representation for that one moment. In 1984, the north and south sections had 31% and 43% of our student population respectively. Put in terms of variance combining the overpopulation and underpopulation of existing sections (which is the statistic normally used at times of reapportionment), the current total combined variance is about 55%, far exceeding the level normally acceptable during reapportionments. This variance increased from 15% to 55% in one year, again reflecting the massive population changes which occur across arbitrary section lines in this District. (Note: Again this data is based upon student population, which can be used as a guide as to general population variations and changes.) The point I am trying to make is that there are substantial annual population changes, by section, although the total population remains about the same.

Now, we have an additional problem which magnifies the issue for us. As a result of the population changes we normally have, we have had a fairly high turnover in Board members. We historically have had an average of one Board member resignation per year due to the member moving from the District. However, prior to the reapportionment, if a Board member (or the community in which the Board member resided) moved elsewhere in the at-large section, the Board member could remain on the Board. Now, if this occurs, the Board member would have to resign from the Board. Thus, an already difficult management situation is being compounded. This year, we have lost one Board member due to a move from the District (Thorne Bay section). At a Board meeting last week, I was informed that an additional Board member (south section) would be resigning for the same reason, while still a further board member (south section) would be resigning because, for the first time, a move of a community was being made across the new arbitrary Board section lines. In less than one year, 60% of the Board will have resigned. While two resignations were unavoidable, I believe the third could be avoided by the application of a reasonable standard to this District.

At a meeting of February 5, the Southeast Island School District Board approved a resolution requesting that the State review this situation and change the sections, administratively if possible, to one section with one seat (Thorne Bay) and an at-large area, with four seats, consisting of the remainder of the District. After a considerable amount of discussion

Representative Peter Goll
March 6, 1985
Page Three

with the Department of Education and Division of Elections, it has become apparent that the Division of Elections feels that existing statutes prevents us from arriving at a practical administrative solution to our problem.

Therefore, the Southeast Island School District Board is requesting your assistance in this matter. Enclosed you will find some possible language for a statute change. The intent of the proposal is:

1. To allow the Commissioner of Education to exempt a regional educational attendance area, upon the request of its Board, from the limitations of AS 14.08.051 (d) (2) upon a determination that population fluctuations make it impractical for the existing statutory standards to be applied. This would eliminate the need for continual revisions due to frequent population changes across section boundaries, and significantly reduce existing variance between sections;
2. To prevent, by a limitation on the number of Board members who can be elected from a given community in an exempted board section, one community from excessively dominating the Board [as does subsection (d) (2)].

This proposal should have little, if any, effect upon other REAA's, due to the stringent limitation suggested for the number of board members from a single community. Please advise me if you have any questions about the enclosed information, or if I may answer additional questions.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Bob Weinstein

Robert Weinstein
Superintendent

RW:cm

cc: Senator Dick Eliason
Senator Robert Ziegler, Sr.
Senator Frank Ferguson
Representative Mike Miller
Representative Robin Taylor
Representative John Sund
Representative Niilo Koponen

STATE OF ALASKA

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
POUCH AF
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-9974

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PHONE: (907) 586-6181

OPINION PAPER
CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 226 (C&RA)
March 12, 1985

The Division of Elections has reviewed the Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 226 (C&RA), "An Act relating to school boards", and raises no objections to its intent or content. It should be noted, however, that the issues covered by this bill do not fall under the normal jurisdiction of the division.

There may be some school districts within the Rural Educational Attendance Areas which experience extreme population fluctuations making the establishment of stable section boundaries within the district difficult to maintain. We would concur that a solution as provided by the new subsection, AS 14.08.051 (f), could provide a viable alternative for districts facing these unusual circumstances. Further, we acknowledge that any action taken in the proper exercise of this provision would rest with the Commissioner of Education.

The impact of this amendment on the division would only be evident in terms of any special elections resulting from a ruling of the Commissioner to realign section boundaries and assignment of school board seats, under this statute. In general, it is assumed that the flexibility provided by this section would help to minimize the frequency of section realignment in school districts with continuing population fluctuations. We would further anticipate that prior to any election necessitated by the exercise of this provision, the division would require notice in writing from the commissioner authorizing such an election.

With regard to the proposed amendments to AS 14.12.030 (b) and AS 29.23.310, the division offers no opinion. The provisions outlined in these sections, would seem to primarily impact incorporated communities, over whose elections we have no jurisdiction.



Sandra J. Stout
Director

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO: The Honorable Peter Goll
Alaska State Representative
Chairman, House Community and
Regional Affairs Committee

DATE: March 8, 1985

FILE NO: 006.3(1)

TELEPHONE NO: 465-2800

FROM: Harold Reynolds, Jr., Commissioner
Department of Education

SUBJECT: House Bill 226

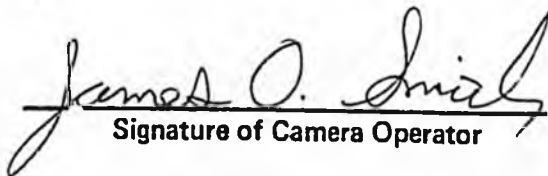
During its March 4 and 5 meeting, the State Board of Education decided to take no position on this Bill.



RECORDS CERTIFICATION



I, the undersigned, an employee of the State of Alaska, do hereby certify that the microfilm images on this microform are accurate reproductions of the original records of the State of Alaska as accumulated during the regular course of business, and that it is the established policy and practice of this State to microfilm its records and to dispose of the original records after microfilm reproductions have been made.


Signature of Camera Operator

7/25/89
Date

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8

COMMITTEE REPORT
HOUSE

(7)

FURTHER: FINANCE

4/3/85

Date: 21 April 1985

The Committee on HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES has had HE 28

"An Act relating to retirement benefits for part-time teachers."

under consideration and recommends:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for _____ same title
 new title
- and recommends _____
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation Zero Fiscal Note Attached
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

(Katie Hanley)

(Vice Chair & Sponsor) Robin Taylor

Katie Hanley (signed original)

Lawrence W. Chamber - DO NOT PASS

Katie Hanley - DO NOT PASS

(Signature)

CHAIRMAN

HOUSE BILL 228
RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR PART-TIME TEACHERS
OVERVIEW PREPARED BY REP. JOHN SUND'S OFFICE

ANALYSIS

Section 14.25.110 is amended to add a new subsection making a member of the Teachers' Retirement System, who has at least 20 years of membership service as a part-time teacher, eligible for a normal retirement benefit.

A part-time teacher is defined in section 14.25.220 (26) as one who works on a regular basis for at least 50% of the full-time teacher's normal work week. Substitute and temporary work do not apply.

HISTORY

It is estimated that there are currently 489 teachers within the state who have some years of part-time teaching. While it is common for teachers to work on a part-time basis at least some time during their careers, few make the choice to do so throughout their careers. Currently, no teacher has accumulated more than 13 years of part-time service and only 2 people have accrued 13 years.

Part-time teaching may be all that is available in a given community at a given time, or an individual may make a personal choice to work part-time. This legislation makes part-time teaching a more viable long-term option for those people who, by choice or by necessity, teach on a part-time basis. The current statute appears particularly unfair to those who have no option to teach full-time.

The bill was introduced at the request of 17 constituents in the Ketchikan area. It is supported by NEA-Alaska, NEA-Sitka, and the Ketchikan Education Association.

The fiscal impact of the bill is minor, because so few teachers have accumulated lengthy part-time service. However, the bill would provide an incentive for those teachers to continue working part-time to retirement age and would reward them for their years of service.

STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date:

Page 1 of 2

REQUEST FISCAL DETAIL University of Alaska
Bill/Resolution No.: CSHB 228 (S.A.) Agency Affected: Department of Education
Title: "An Act relating to retirement benefits for part-time..." Program Category Affected:
Sponsor: State Affairs Elementary & Secondary Education
Requestor: State Affairs BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected:
Date of Request: 4/1/85 TRS State Match

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

Operating	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
100 Personal Svcs						
100 Pmnt & Bnfts		70.1	75.8	81.8	88.3	95.4
200 Travel						
300 Contractual						
400 Supplies						
500 Equipment						
600 Land & Struct						
700 Grants, Claims						
700 TRS Match		408.0	440.6	475.9	514.0	555.1
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	478.1	516.4	557.7	602.3	650.5
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		478.1	516.4	557.7	602.3	650.5
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	478.1	516.4	557.7	602.3	650.5

POSITIONS:

	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared By: J.K. Humphreys, Director Phone: 465-4470
 Division: Retirement & Benefits Date: 4/1/85

Approved by Commissioner: Lisa Rudd Date: 4/2/85
 Agency: Department of Administration

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):
 Legislative Finance
 Legislative Sponsor
 Requestor
 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agency(ies)

CS House Bill 228 (State Affairs)
 Fiscal Note Analysis
 Prepared by Division of Retirement & Benefits
 Department of Administration

April 1, 1985

IV Analysis: Passage of this bill would allow a member with 20 years of membership service in the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) as a part-time teacher to retire with a normal benefit. It would also allow a member with part-time service in eight different calendar years to become vested in the TRS.

To fund this bill, the state TRS contribution rate would increase by .098% in FY 86. The state TRS payroll is estimated to be \$71,490,744 in FY 86 and to increase by 8% each year thereafter. The TRS State Match contribution would increase by .098% in FY 86. The TRS State Match salary is estimated to be \$416,297,654 for FY 86 and to increase by 8% each year thereafter.

The State cost of \$478.1 is calculated as follows:

The increase in TRS contribution rate (.098%) times the estimated FY 86 State TRS salaries (\$71,490,744.00) equaling	\$ 70,100.00
Plus the increase in TRS State Match contribution rate (.098%) times the estimated FY 86 State Match Payroll (\$416,297,654.00) equaling	<u>\$408,000.00</u>
Total FY 86 estimated cost	<u>\$478,100.00</u>

In addition to the State's costs above, School Districts costs would increase as follows:

<u>FY 86</u>	<u>FY 87</u>	<u>FY 88</u>	<u>FY 89</u>	<u>FY 90</u>
\$337.9	\$364.9	\$394.1	\$425.7	\$459.7

Passage of this bill would result in a .31% decrease in the TRS Funding ratio and would increase the present value of the TRS unfunded liability by \$3,263,000.



NEA-ALASKA

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

ANCHORAGE REGIONAL OFFICE

1411 W. 33RD
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503
(907) 274-0536

JUNEAU OFFICE

147 S. FRANKLIN #207
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
(907) 586-3090

FAIRBANKS REGIONAL OFFICE

2118 CUSHMAN STREET
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
(907) 456-4435

April 24, 1985

TO: Representatives Niilo Koponen and Max Gruenberg, Co-Chairs
Members, House HESS Committee

FROM: NEA-Alaska

RE: CSHB 228 (SA)

NEA-Alaska supports CSHB 228, (SA). The purpose of the bill is to rectify an inequity in the Teachers' Retirement System.

Currently, a half time teacher must work twice as long as a full time teacher in order to qualify for benefits, (sixteen years instead of eight to become vested and forty instead of twenty to retire). Under the current provision, half time teachers may never make it to eligibility. It is our position that time for eligibility should be calendar years worked regardless of full time or part time status. Therefore, a part time teacher should be eligible for retirement upon working the same number of calendar years as a full time teacher.

Benefits should be calculated so that the half time person's retirement income reflects the half time employment.

We urge your support of CSHB 228. It allows half time teachers access to the retirement system in a more equitable and reasonable way than do current provisions.

Respectfully submitted:

Gayle Pierce
President

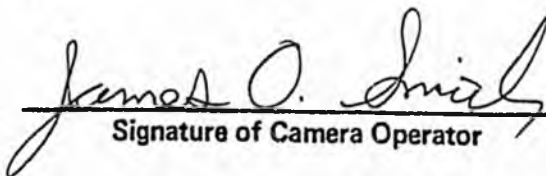
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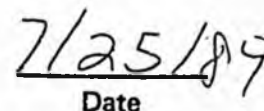


RECORDS CERTIFICATION



I, the undersigned, an employee of the State of Alaska, do hereby certify that the microfilm images on this microform are accurate reproductions of the original records of the State of Alaska as accumulated during the regular course of business, and that it is the established policy and practice of this State to microfilm its records and to dispose of the original records after microfilm reproductions have been made.


Signature of Camera Operator


Date

H B

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COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

(7)

FURTHER: FINANCE

2/25/85

Date: April 3, 1985

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES has h.d. HB 231

"An Act relating to amount of general and temporary relief assistance."

under consideration and reports it back as follows:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for _____ same title
 new title
- and recommends _____
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back ^{INDIVIDUAL} without recommendation Zero Fiscal Note Attached
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Signature] No Rec

[Signature] - DO NOT PASS

[Signature] - Do Not Pass

[Signature]
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE REPORT
HOUSE

(7)

FURTHER: FINANCE

2/25/85

Date: April 3 1985

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES has had HB 231

"An Act relating to amount of general and temporary relief assistance."

under consideration and reports it back as follows:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for _____ same title
 new title
- and recommends _____
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without ^{INDIVIDUAL} recommendation Zero Fiscal Note Attached
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Signature] No Rec

David [Signature] - DID NOT PASS

[Signature] - Do Not Pass

[Signature]

CHAIRMAN

STATE OF ALASKA

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Document # 8390

POUCH H-07
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

PHONE: 465-3355

March 1, 1983

The Honorable Vic Fischer
Senator
Room 423, Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Fischer:

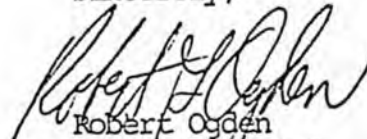
In a hearing on February 28, you inquired about the relationship of the 53 \$80 General Relief maximum payment level set in 1953 to current values, needs, or costs. We have looked at several ways of translating values, including comparisons (insofar as they exist) with other assistance program payments.

We have concluded that the only valid approach is to assume that the 1953 \$80 maximum was adequate in 1953, and to translate these 1953 Alaska dollars into 1983 Alaska dollars.

Mr. Chris Miller, Department of Labor, Division of Research and statistics, was kind enough to do this computation for us, using CPI history. The US CPI went from 1953 80.1 to 1982 289.1. Using this measure \$80 in 1953 would require an equivalent of \$288.72 in 1982 dollars. The Anchorage CPI was first set in 1960, increasing from 91.4 to 241.9 between 1960 and 1982. Using this measure, \$80 in 1960 would require an equivalent of \$211.76 in 1982. (For a assistance comparison, we paid between \$125 and \$175 for a 2-person AFDC household in 1970, we pay \$546 now.)

As we have noted in past studies on AFDC payment levels, "adequacy" of assistance payment levels is not capable of being demonstrated by objective data. Nationally, most maximums tend to be set by applying political and fiscal considerations to a past level of payment. This payment "base" is often assumed to be adequate simply because no one can conclusively prove that it was inadequate.

Sincerely,


Robert Ogden
Deputy Director

cc: Chris Miller, DOL, DR & S



ALASKA CHAPTER
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS, INC.

P.O. Box 10430
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 456-5914

ISSUE: GENERAL RELIEF PAYMENTS

The maximum payment for a destitute person under Alaska's General Relief statute is \$80 per month! THAT AMOUNT HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED SINCE 1957!!!! Further, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Regulations provide that payments must go to a vendor on-behalf of the person and not to the person himself. Such regulations also provide that General Relief payments cannot be paid on a regular basis, but rather are mostly restricted to a one-time payment. The result of such law and regulation is that people who are extremely poor receive virtually no assistance from a State which is so wealthy it can afford to subsidize home mortgages!

Action Requested:

The Alaska Chapter, National Association of Social Workers recommends legislation amending A.S.47.25 to double the General Relief maximum payment from \$80 to \$160 per month with a corresponding increase in the appropriation to the Division of Public Assistance to enable them to make such payments.

In addition it is recommended that the Legislative Regulation Review Committee review the General Relief Regulations to determine how they could better serve people who are poor.

Further, it is recommended that the Department of Health & Social Services be directed by the Legislature to conduct a study of the distribution and adequacy of payments and make a report to the legislature by January, 1986.

GENERAL RELIEF (GR)

Program Purpose

Alaska's General Relief Program provides assistance for obtaining the necessities of life for people who temporarily have absolutely no other personal, private, or public resources available to meet their needs.

Eligibility Criteria:

Recipients of GR must meet the following criteria:

1. They must be in financial need;
2. They must have inadequate resources to meet their basic needs;
3. They must be 18 years old or be eligible minors;
4. They must have proof of a specific unmet need for a subsistence item such as an eviction notice for overdue rent, or a utility shut-off notice;
5. They must be physically present in Alaska at the time of application;
6. They must register for work unless otherwise exempted.

*NEED STANDARDS (Monthly allowances) Note: Financial eligibility for GR-GRM exists only if need exceeds net income (need standard minus net income equals unmet need, which equals vendor or direct cash payment).

Need Standards

Adult-only households:

<u>Number of Adults</u>	<u>Maximum Need Standard</u>
1	\$300
2	400
3	500
4	600
5	700

\$100 shall be added for each additional adult.

Households with children and adults:

<u>Number of Persons</u>	<u>Maximum Need Standard</u>
Adult plus 1 child	\$300
Adult plus 2 children	350
Adult plus 3 children	400
Adult plus 4 children	450
Adult plus 5 children	500
Adult plus 6 children	550
Adult plus 7 children	600

\$100 shall be added for each additional adult and \$50 for each additional child.

If income is larger than the need standard, even by \$1, the applicant is not eligible. Need standards above were in effect June, 1983.

Exception: In open APA and AFDC cases with no prior resource to provide drugs needed for medical treatment, GRM eligibility will exist.

Coverage: GR can pay up to \$80 per month, per eligible person, to vendors on behalf of needy clients, and can provide cash payments of up to \$80 per month per person for certain needy high school students and older persons who have no other resources and who have applied for regular cash assistance from other programs.

Normally, GR provides assistance for such needs as rent, heating fuel, or electrical bills in amounts not to exceed the maximum of \$80 per eligible person.

Also, under certain very limited circumstances, indigents who are recent arrivals in Alaska can be provided one-way tickets to their last place of residence.

Certain burial costs can be paid through GR for burial of indigent deceased persons who were eligible by virtue of having no resources available to meet their needs. Relatives who are unable to provide for the costs of the burial may apply for assistance.

GR applications are available at all Division of Public Assistance offices. Office addresses are listed on page 3 of this booklet.

Applications are also available from fee agents in most smaller towns.

SOME FACTS ABOUT ALASKA'S GENERAL RELIEF
PROGRAM

General Relief Appropriations

FY '82	\$530,000
FY '83	\$451,000
FY '84	\$650,000
FY '85	\$537,000

General Relief Utilization *

Average of 351 clients per month	Shelter & Utilities
Average of 21 burials per month	Funeral costs

Average payment

\$80 per client	Shelter & Utilities
\$806 per client	Burial

Per-cent of Appropriation for Different Services

Utilization for burial	48%
Utilization for shelter & utilities	52%

If GR appropriation were doubled, at least double the number of persons now served could be expected to apply, and more landlords would accept GR payment since it would be nearer to the actual amount of rent owed them.

*State-wide figures, but the majority is utilized in Anchorage.
Burial numbers have increased since BIA no longer provides burial payments

*Figures provided by the Anchorage Office of the Division of Public Assistance
November, 1984

Alaska Chapter
National Association of
Social Workers
Box 10430
Fairbanks, AK 99710

Alaska Public Interest
Research Group
PO Box 1093
Anchorage, AK 99510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
Cecilia Kleinkauf, NASW
786-1714
Maureen Kennedy, AkPIRG
278-3661

STUDY CRITICIZES \$80 CAP ON GENERAL RELIEF PROGRAM

The \$80 per person limit on the state's General Relief Assistance Program (designed to provide qualified unemployable people with necessities) is totally inadequate, according to a study just released by the Alaska Public Interest Research Group and the Alaska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. The figure has not increased since 1953.

"Though rents in Anchorage have doubled since 1978, and though changes in BIA and AFDC programs have shifted additional burdens on this state program, the legislature has cut the appropriation by 40% over the last two years," said Maureen Kennedy, AkPIRG director. "The legislature realizes the program is unworkable and inadequate, but rather than overhauling it and increasing payments so they make a difference, we've cut back."

"We give state employees in one day's per diem more than we give general relief recipients in a month," said Yvonne Chase, President of NASW. "The State continues to divert funds from the program for pauper burials. In fact, nearly half of the 1984

STUDY CRITIICIZES CAP. PAGE TWO

expenditures went to burials, which are not subject to the \$80 cap, and which averaged over \$800 apiece." The NASW recommends that the State, at a minimum, increase the cap to \$160.

The report, written by Michael Reibel, includes a detailed survey of 102 destitute people and dramatically demonstrates the extent of unmet need. It recommends that the State:

- Authorize larger appropriations for the program;
- Review program regulations and redefine "emergency need;"
- Conduct a study of the distribution and adequacy of payments;
- Create a separate state burial program; and
- Institute a comprehensive statewide social services plan, as required by law.

The NASW has taken on the General Relief Program as a top legislative priority for this session. The group represents over 200 social workers throughout the state. AkPIRG, a statewide research and advocacy organization, has 600 members.

#####

A CRITICAL EVALUATION
OF THE GENERAL RELIEF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
AS AN EFFECTIVE METHOD OF EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE

by

Michael Reibel

Prepared for the
Alaska Public Interest Research Group
National Association of Social Workers
Anchorage Housing Opportunities Made Equal

January, 1985

Recommendations - p. 28.

A CRITICAL EVALUATION
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January, 1985

PREFACE

This project was undertaken as a summer internship under the auspices of the Internship Program for Alaska. It proved to be an especially challenging one due to AHOME's lack of an office and a permanent staff. As a result, the success of this inquiry is largely due to the generous and patient assistance of a considerable number of individuals. The organizations whose help was indispensable include: the Alaska Public Interest Research Group (AKPIRG) which provided office space and critical support; the Internship Program for Alaska; the Alaska Legal Services Corporation; the AHOME Board of Directors; and all social service agencies which allowed me to interview clients.

Persons who provided critical support to the project include:

Michael Baffrey	Michael Barring-Gould
Linda Beecher	Betty Bender
Brother Bob	Joanie Clery
Gloria Engel	Monte Engel
Lauren Ewing	James Gamble
Ron Hirsh	Michael Huelsman
Karla Huntingdon	Steve Kadish
Joyce Lee	Lauren Muller
Rosalie Nadeau	Joe O'Connell
Liane Payne	Ileen Self
Linda Snyder	Gail Stolz
Karen White	Leslie Zeloof

Thanks also to all interviewers whose names don't appear. Thanks to all the people who were kind to me, who showed me around and helped me out in various ways either with my work or in gaining a deep appreciation and love for the Great Land.

Special thanks to Maureen Kennedy of AKPIRG who served as my Project Supervisor, and to all the kind people who sheltered me during my stay when I was officially classified as "Homeless".

I. INTRODUCTION

Basic human rights should include safe, adequate housing, adequate food and water, and access to medical care. Yet of the acknowledged necessities, the right to decent housing continues to receive a low priority in the funding of existing social service programs. Unlike the other necessities mentioned above, there is no Federal program dedicated to emergency rental assistance, nor has there ever been. Subsidized public housing is potentially effective in providing low cost housing for low and moderate income families despite problems associated with such programs, but public housing does not address the critical problem of short term and emergency need.

In Alaska, the only source of emergency rental assistance available Statewide is the General Relief Assistance Program. The purpose of this study is to investigate the need for emergency rental assistance, evaluate the effectiveness of the General Relief Program in meeting that need, and explore ways in which perceived needs might be better met.

II. THE GENERAL RELIEF PROGRAM

The General Relief Program was created by an act of the territorial legislature and has remained substantially unchanged since April 1, 1953 (six years before Statehood). Subsequent amendments made minor changes to clarify and simplify the text without making substantive changes in the program.

General Relief Assistance (GRA) and its sister program, General Relief Medical (GRM) are administered under Title 47, Chapter 25, Article 2 of the Alaska Statutes. The framework for the program is in the first part of Article 2:

"Eligibility for Assistance: Financial assistance may be given under AS 47.25.120-47.25.300, so far as practicable under the conditions in this State, to a needy person who is eligible under the regulations of this department." (AS 47.25.110)

"Amount of Assistance: The amount of assistance for needy persons shall be determined by the Department with regard to the resources and needs of the person and the conditions existing in each case. Where possible, assistance shall be sufficient to provide the applicant with reasonable

subsistence according to the standards of assistance established by the Department. However, the amount of assistance for subsistence needs may not exceed \$80 a person a calendar month." (AS 47.25.120)

The Department of Health and Social Services administers the General Relief Assistance and General Relief Medical programs through its Division of Public Assistance. Both of these programs are 100% State funded, receiving no Federal dollars. Although created by the same act, awarded under the same eligibility criteria, and bearing a similar name, the two programs are different in two important respects. First of all, they are funded separately: General Relief Assistance has been allocated \$537,000 for fiscal year 1985; General Relief Medical has been allocated \$10,259,500 for fiscal year 1985 (nearly twenty times as much). The other important distinction is the maximum allowable grant. AS 47.25.120 forbids grants larger than \$80 per person, per calendar month for subsistence needs. General Relief Medical grants are not limited to this \$80 figure. Since our analysis is of General Relief as an avenue of rental assistance, General Relief Medical will not be considered of primary importance to our inquiry.

The stated purpose of the General Relief Program is to provide "subsistence for needy persons when no other source of assistance is available to them" (Division of Public Assistance [DPA], General Relief Manual). The manual which is used as a reference by DPA eligibility workers, emphasizes that General Relief is an emergency program "designed to meet the needs of Alaskans experiencing extreme financial crisis."

General Relief is to be used as a last resort only when all other resources (including other assistance programs) are exhausted. Under current Department regulations, General Relief clients must reapply every month, documenting emergency needs each time. Proof of emergency needs means an eviction notice, a utility cutoff notice, or similar notice of termination.

Ordinarily, all General Relief assistance grants are made in the form of payments, made directly to the client's creditor rather than to the client. Thus, the State can be reasonably assured that the grant is being used for the intended purpose.

SCOPE

The Scope of the General Relief Program is broad. DPA regulations and guidelines interpret "reasonable subsistence" to mean "the basic necessities of life: Medical Care (General Relief Medical), shelter, utilities, food, and clothing." Additionally, if death occurs and the deceased is eligible, General Relief can provide for burial expenses.

In practice, General Relief grants are divided almost evenly between rental assistance, with other types of grants lagging far behind. In a recent study prepared for the Department, total General Relief grants over a six month period were distributed as follows: Rental assistance 44.5%; Burials 42.6%; Utilities 1.6% and other miscellaneous 11.2%. Burials account for so much of the General Relief allocation partially because burials of unidentified persons have come to be administered through the General Relief Program.

COMMENTARY

The logic behind funding pauper's funerals through a relief program designed to provide subsistence for the living is not entirely clear. Perhaps having extended burial assistance to eligible (i.e., impoverished) families of equally impoverished deceased persons (already distant from the original intent of providing for subsistence), the State decided to incorporate the administration of pauper funerals into the General Relief Program for the sake of consistency: Why not have one program handle all of the State funded funerals? Rational enough, from the standpoint of efficiency, but definitely a great leap of abstraction from the stated purpose of providing for the subsistence of needy persons.

According to estimates of Department researchers, General Relief outlays break down geographically at approximately:

Anchorage area	65%
Fairbanks	17%
Southeast	8%
Rest of the State	10%

Although these figures correspond roughly to the population distribution of the State, it has been suggested that the breakdown of payments by type, if

not the relative frequency or amount of the grants, varies between urban and rural areas. Heather Noble, an attorney at the Kotzebue Legal Service Corporation office, cites fuel costs as a very heavy burden on resident of that area who often require assistance in paying their heating bills. Although unfortunately, no regional breakdowns are available from the Department, it seems likely that grants for utilities and fuel make up a larger portion of the outlays in the more remote (and colder) regions.

FACTORS OF ELIGIBILITY

(for more detailed information on eligibility criteria,
see the DPA's GR manual)

- Specific Need: an immediate and specific need for subsistence items, transportation, or burial.
- Inadequate Resources: a lack of personal resources including liquid assets, personal property or credit, as well as eligibility for, or access to, prior resources (other assistance programs).
- Applicant must be physically present in the State of Alaska at the time of application: no other residency requirement exists.

ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

- Inadequate resources: personal resources - a GR household will not be eligible if it has:
 - More than \$500 in liquid assets
 - any substantial assets beside owning one's home and one car and/or snowmobile and/or boat (exceptions are made in special circumstances)
- Prior Resources: GR can not be granted if the applicant has other resources (assistance programs) available that allegedly meet the specific need. In the event that another program will provide for part of the amount for which an applicant is eligible under GR guidelines, GR will provide only the unmet part of the need. Some prior resources for GR are: AFDC, food stamps, social security, and various disability programs.

NEEDS STANDARD

After an applicant's monthly income has been determined (according to DPA guidelines) the eligibility worker consults the following need standard (estimate of minimum subsistence cost) to determine unmet need.

Adult only households:

<u># of Adults</u>	<u>Rent Under \$35/month</u>	<u>Rent \$35/month or More</u>
1	\$235	\$300
2	335	400
3	435	500
4	535	600
5	635	700

\$100 shall be added for each additional adult

Households with children and adults:

<u># of Persons</u>	<u>Maximum Needs Standard</u>
Adult + 1 child	\$300
+ 2 children	350
+ 3 children	400
+ 4 children	450

\$100 shall be added for each additional adult, \$50 for each child.

Note: The tables demonstrate how outdated DPA's estimates of living costs have become.

Aside from the unrealistically low figures in the need standard, the category headings are revealing: the mere fact that less than \$35/month (especially for five adults) could be considered a realistic rental charge testifies to the antiquity of the need standard. The current guidelines have not been changed since 1978, when rents were approximately half of what they are today.

The amount of a subsistence grant is calculated by subtracting the applicant's income from the appropriate need standard, and determining the unmet need. A grant for this amount is authorized unless it exceeds the \$80/person/month maximum.

The statute clearly limits the amount of GR grants for subsistence to \$80/person/month. The key word is "subsistence". Apparently DPA does not consider medical or burial costs to constitute subsistence, thereby rendering the \$80 cap inapplicable to those categories of assistance. While the cost for funeral services (including the casket) may not exceed \$750, there is no absolute limit on the costs associated with burial. Similarly, once deemed

eligible, there are no absolute limits on dollar amounts for GR medical grants, although regulations specify limitation on the type of coverage, conditions of care, etc. Rent, utility, and other subsistence grants, on the other hand, are strictly limited to \$80/person/month. For details on DPA guidelines for eligibility determination, rules and policy pertaining to GRA and GR Medical see the GR and GRM manuals prepared for offices of the Division of Public Assistance and/or the pertaining sections of the Alaska Administrative Code.

III. RECENT FISCAL HISTORY OF THE GRA

The data arranged on the following two pages are from fiscal records of the old Social Services Department and from the ten recent fiscal years (1976-1985) of the Department of Health and Social Services.

GRA appropriations (first graph) have an erratic history, the result of factors other than changing needs and attitudes toward social spending.

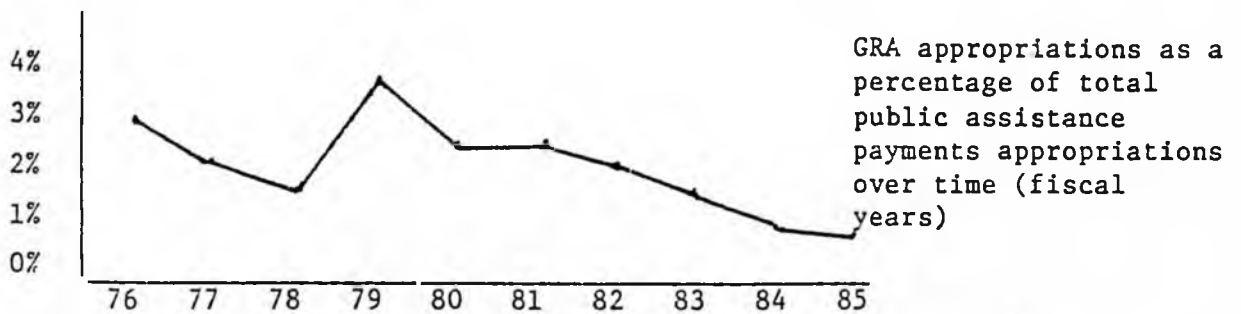
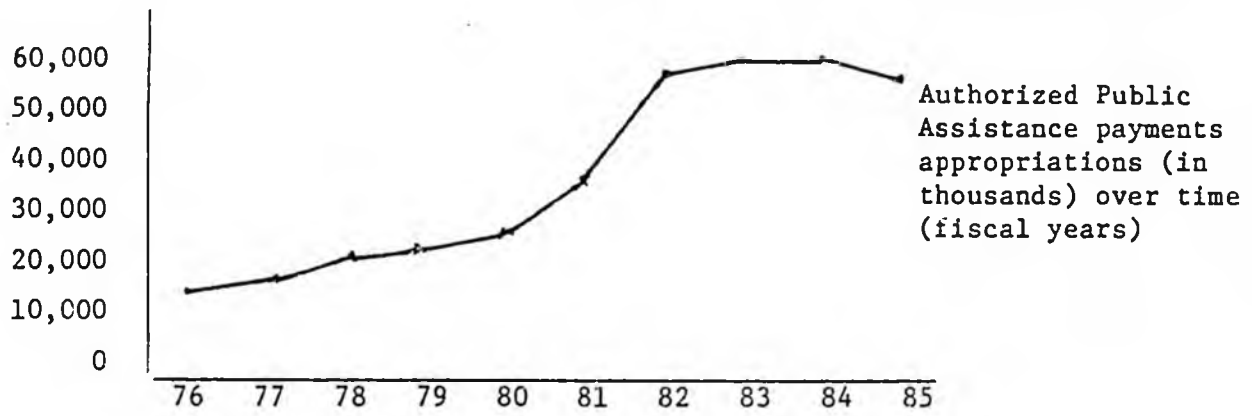
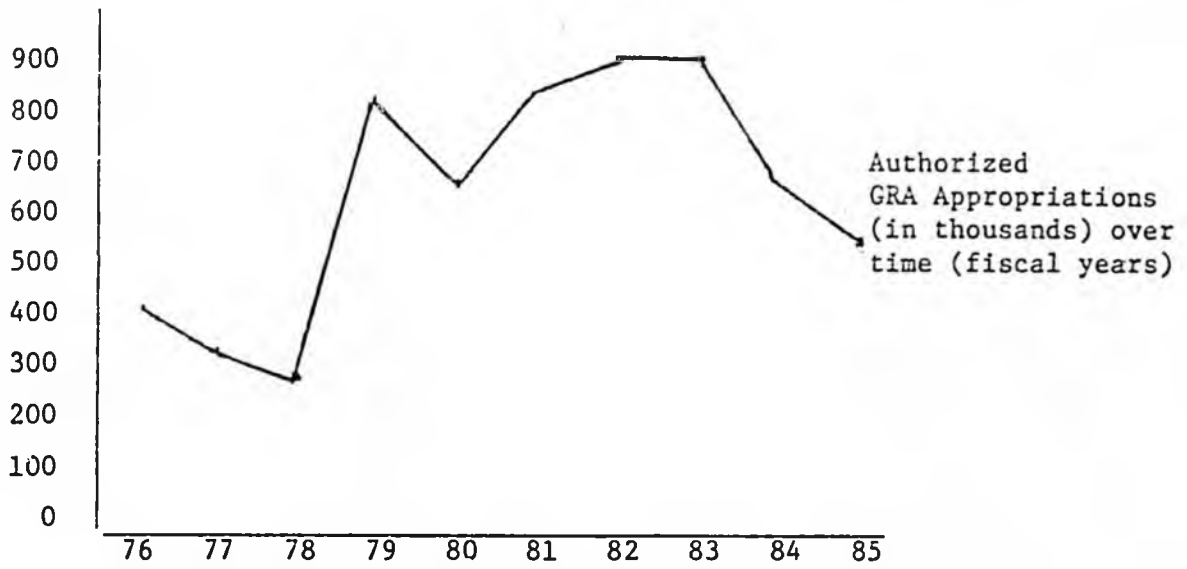
The middle graph represents total authorized public assistance payment appropriations over time. It indicates a rising curve, leveling off in 1982 and 1983, beginning to decline slightly in 1985. This curve reflects recent patterns of population growth in the State and prevailing attitudes toward social spending.

The third graph represents that portion of the total Public Assistance payments budget which was earmarked for GRA. It shows a consistent decline in importance over the last six fiscal years, from 3.7% of the total Public Assistance allocation in fiscal year 1979 to 1.0% in fiscal year 1985.

What variables are causing this roller coaster pattern in GRA appropriations and the steady decline in GRA as an important component of the Public Assistance umbrella? The point of origin for the cycling effect is indicated in the 4th column on the chart (% of initial GRA appropriations actually spent). The restrictive eligibility criteria, low need standard and creditor's option to decline a GR vendor payment (see issues section) make GR grants inaccessible to many truly needy persons, resulting in unspent allocations.

FISCAL YEAR	AUTHORIZED GRA APPROPRIATION	SUPPLEMENTAL APPROP	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE	% OF INITIAL APPROP ACTUALLY SPENT	CHANGE IN INITIAL APPROP PREVIOUS YEAR	TOTAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS BUDGET	GRA BUDGET AS A % OF TOTAL PUB ASSIST PAYMENTS BUDGET
85	537.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	-113.0	52,506	1.0 %
84	650	0	N/A	N/A	-250	55,318.0	1.2%
83	900	0	451.8	520.2 %	0	55,677.8	1.6 %
82	900	0	530.0	58.9 %	+100	51,174.8	1.8 %
81	800	0	607.5	75.9 %	+150	33,729.3	2.4 %
80	650	250	797.7	122.7 %	-173	27,286.1	2.4 %
79	823.3	0	707.1	85.9 %	+535.5	22,267.6	3.7 %
78	288	404.2	500.7	173.9 %	-42	20,937.9	1.3 %
77	330.0	0	293.9	89.1 %	-71	17,437.63	1.9 %
76	401	0	192.5	48.0 %	N/A	14,922.7	2.7 %

A recent fiscal history of the General Relief Assistance Program - all appropriations are in thousands.



The apparent surplus in question is not really a surplus at all, but rather a reflection of legitimate need which is obscured by serious defects in the structure of the program. Nonetheless, without a clear understanding of the flaws in the program, the apparent surplus is seen as fat to be trimmed and legislators respond by authorizing smaller appropriations. When authorized appropriations get small enough (as they did in fiscal year 1978) the burden of claims can quite suddenly grow larger than the inadequate funds despite structural barriers to the successful filing of claims. When this happens the legislature responds with a supplemental appropriation and grudgingly authorizes a larger grant budget for the following year. Then the cycle begins again.

An undercurrent to this negative feedback (cycling) is an associated positive feedback effect. The consistently recurrent cuts in the program caused by the apparent surplus bring about further restrictions on eligibility and a reluctance among caseworkers to make use of, or depend on, GRA to meet the applicant's needs resulting in less use of the program, less of the allocation spent, and consequently an even smaller appropriation the next year. On occasion, the legislature itself has demanded tighter regulations, helping to set the stage for more surpluses and more budget cuts.

The fiscal year 1978 GRA budget authorization indicated legislative intent that, "The appropriation for assistance payments is contingent on the following: the Department shall adopt regulations excluding from eligibility for GR childless employable singles and children of couples of which one is employable." The fiscal year 1980 appropriation included a warning that "the legislature will not consider any supplemental requests" (emphasis added). There can be little doubt that eligibility workers would respond by carefully hoarding GR grants so as not to use up the allocation until the end of the fiscal year. (Ironically, the legislature later that year approved a supplemental GRA appropriation of \$250,000 in response to an unexpected volume of eligible claims.)

Perhaps the most serious effect of this erosion process is that the viability and credibility of the GRA program have deteriorated to the point where potential applicants, public assistance workers, and legislators alike find the program exasperating, cumbersome, and difficult to take seriously. Although the program's shortcomings are manifested in the budgeting process,

they have their roots in structural program flaws. Until these flaws are corrected, no amount of fiscal wisdom or compassion can increase the program's effectiveness in the long term.

IV. SURVEY OF THE HOMELESS AND PRE-HOMELESS

As a tool, the survey of the homeless and pre-homeless (persons presumed to be at great risk of becoming homeless by virtue of economic hardship), was chosen to provide a broader view of the rental emergency problem from the individual's standpoint. Time and resources were limited, however a large scale survey was completed. Homeless persons were interviewed at most of the major shelters in Anchorage and homeless and pre-homeless persons were interviewed while applying for Public Assistance at the DPA office on 4th and Gambell in Anchorage. In addition, interviews with nine needy persons were completed at the Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) office in Juneau. In all, 102 completed interviews were included in the sample.

Due to the relatively small sample size, concluding are not strictly statistically significant. The results of the survey must be considered as a catalog of indicators rather than statistically proven facts. Conclusions and assertions in the survey results necessarily include the author's impressions resulting from hours of interviewing. More detailed information on the methodology can be found in Appendix B.

There are three basic objectives in conducting the survey: to assess need, to evaluate the effectiveness of existing institutions in meeting need, and to describe the needy population. Similarly, the variables broke down roughly into three categories: housing status, economic status, and demographic information. The results of the survey are presented below:

There are no homeowners in our sample. Mobile home dwellers, who own their homes, but must pay space rent comprise an intermediate category between homeowners and renters (total 4%). Other renters total 25%, including those in public/subsidized housing. The remainder (72%) are homeless.

The category "staying temporarily with friends or relatives" (11%) implies that the subject made no regular contribution to the cost of the home. This is another contradictory category; such people are homeless in that they have

no dwelling of their own and are at the mercy of others, but they are not homeless in that they have a private place to sleep and receive mail and may contribute sporadically to the cost of the home. Often single mothers with pending AFDC claims fall into this category.

A. HOUSING STATUS

1. Type of shelter currently occupied

Shelter for the homeless	52%
Staying temporarily with frinds/relatives	11%
Camper, tent, or vehicle	5%
Homeless, no shelter of any kind	4%
 Subtotal: Homeless	 72%
 Apartment	 17%
Public/subsidized housing	5%
Mobil home	4%
Rented house	2%
Rented duplex	1%
 Subtotal: Renters	 29%
 Owned house	 0%
Condominium	0%
 Subtotal: Homeowners	 0%
 TOTAL	 101%*

*Totals may be greater or less than 100% due to rounding.

Of the 61% of the sample who can be described as hardcore homeless, the great majority make use of the several shelters for the homeless in Anchorage. Of those in the Anchorage area who do not, a certain proportion must be presumed not to be aware of the existence of the shelters (due to their recent arrival and/or isolated situations). A number of interviewees preferred not to avail themselves of an open door to a roof over their heads, perhaps because of some stigma attached to using such facilities.

The distribution is biased toward shelter dwellers by the fact that nearly half of the interviews (45%) were conducted in the shelters. It is perhaps more instructive to look at the distribution of the other forms of housing.

2. How shelter is obtained by those unable to afford their own homes. (Note: those able to regularly meet existing housing payments are excluded from the sample).

Shelter for the homeless	58%
Staying temporarily with friends/relatives	18%
Rental assistance (includes public housing)	12%
Camping out/sleeping out	7%
Living in vehicle	1%
Credit from landlord (includes public housing, i.e., failure to pay rent not yet resulting in eviction)	4%

Again, the figure for those staying in shelters has been inflated because of the sampling technique. There were also many combined answers, e.g., "sleep out, shelter when in rains." It seems clear from the interviews that many more people are compelled to engage in brinkmanship by falling behind in their rent than actually reported this as a remedy when unable to afford their own home (4%). Many low income renters view this type of marginal tenure as an occasionally necessary tactic of one who, on the balance, is usually able to afford his/her own home, rather than an often involuntary subsidy on the part of the landlord.

3. Reason for being homeless (Note: only those classified as homeless are included in the sample).

Recent arrival, can't find or afford housing	30%
Recently left family, spouse, or loved one, can't find or afford housing	19%
Recently evicted for economic reasons, can't find or afford housing	13%
Chronically unemployed, actively seeking work	13%
Homeless by choice	11%
Recently left parent's home, can't find or afford housing	2%

Recently evicted, other than economic reasons	0%
Other reason	13%

Only part of the first category consists of those recently arrived in Alaska. Many of the recent arrivals are lured to urban areas, especially Anchorage, from around the State by the prospect of employment, only to find themselves unemployed and homeless in an unfamiliar urban environment.

Those having recently left family, spouse, or loved one form the next largest category. They were previously able to afford housing due to their stable family or family-like situations which allowed them to take advantage of relatively favorable rents for larger units. When the household unit is split, one or both of the resulting smaller households must relocate at added expense and generally higher rents. This category includes divorces in addition to women who are compelled to leave their homes in fear of physical abuse. Those women with children who are eligible for AFDC often experience long delays in the processing of their claims. This problem will be discussed in greater detail in the Issues Section.

At first glance, the next two categories seem redundant, but they are composed of primarily different kinds of people: those evicted due to insufficient income ordinarily have either recently lost a job or are underemployed. The subjects in this category have invariably lost their homes recently and many will recover economically before becoming chronically homeless or jobless.

Of those who cited chronic involuntary unemployment as their reason for homelessness, many have become resigned to, if not satisfied with, homelessness and unemployment as a way of life. Indeed, many speak as if they have no real hope of finding steady work, making success in job hunting unlikely even if they are "actively seeking".

In general, those in the chronically unemployed category showed much less stability than the recently evicted types. They are more transient (within Alaska), almost exclusively single, and overwhelmingly male. They generally seem to be accustomed

psychologically to the role of the faceless drifter at the fringes of society. Although unfortunately such data was not recorder, a disproportionate number of the men in the category are war veterans, in particular Viet Nam era war veterans.

With a few exceptions, the next category, homeless by choice, consists of men who have accepted and embraced homelessness as a permanent condition of their lives. The exceptions were persons who wished to leave Alaska and opted to leave their homes while continuing to work and live in a shelter in order to save money for travel and relocation expenses.

Lastly, an additional unforeseen category deserves comment: a number of individuals who, in listing "other" as their reason for homelessness, specified that they had been recently discharged from a hospital, had lost their homes during hospitalization and were unable to afford a home.

4. Eviction history

Had been evicted or had mortgage foreclosed in the past 12 months	22%
Had not been evicted or had mortgage foreclosed in the past 12 months	78%

Unlike the previous two questions, the entire sample and not just those classified as homeless are included in this distribution. Many people who are not now homeless have been evicted in the past 12 months, and presumably a number of these experienced a period of homelessness. The figure also does not include individuals who left their homes due to economic hardship (generally to become homeless) before a formal eviction process could be completed. When both factors are taken into account, a figure of 22% actually evicted in the last 12 months alone is remarkably high and indicates great hardship. The following distribution prepared from survey data illustrates the extreme difficulty of working one's way back into a home after becoming homeless due to low income:

Housing status of recently evicted persons: type of shelter occupied:

Shelter for the homeless	14 or 64%
Staying temporarily with friends or relatives	3 or 14%
Mobile home	2 or 9%
Apartment	1 or 4.5%
Camper, tent, or vehicle	1 or 4.5%
Homeless, no shelter of any kind	1 or 4.5%

Of the 22 persons evicted in the past 12 months, 16 are truly homeless and three are marginal (staying temporarily with friends or relatives). Only three have been able to recover and find homes.

B. ECONOMIC STATUS

1. Rent. Rent broken down by category (Note: Item sample includes all those who have rented in the past twelve months, not just current renters).

<u>\$ Rent Level Monthly</u>	<u># of Subjects in Sample</u>	<u>% of Subjects in Sample</u>
0- 149	2	3.8
150- 299	13	25.0
300- 499	14	26.9
500- 749	16	30.8
750-1000	6	11.5
over 1000	<u>1</u>	<u>1.9</u>
TOTAL	52	99.9
Median Rent:	\$457	
Mean Rent:	\$475	

These figures include tenant's share of subsidized rent in Alaska State Housing Authority (ASHA) and other subsidized rental accommodations, which deflates them somewhat. Actual market rentals for the population in question would correspondingly be somewhat higher.

2. Monthly Household Income

<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>
0- 299	62
300- 599	15
600- 899	16
900-1199	5
1200+	2

In gathering and recording information on income, the most striking and surprising development was the number of people who reported absolutely no income of any kind. About half of the people in the lowest income category went out of their way to point out that their income was not zero to 300 dollars, but rather zero dollars. More than three quarters of the total sample, with homes and homeless alike, live on less than \$600 per month. A quick comparison of this statistic with the rental figures reveal two things.

Obviously, many people cannot afford any kind of housing. Less obvious is the implication, still quite strong, that many low income renters are of necessity spending more than 50% of their income on housing (compared to thirty percent of gross adjustment income, the rent-to-income ratio used by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development as a "reasonable" figure on which to base subsidies). It is easy to see how such a heavy rental burden would tend to destabilize low income families and all too frequently result in the loss of the home.

3. Question: In the past twelve months, have you gone without food in order to pay other bills? (for vital necessities)

Yes	50%
No	50%

Perhaps more than any other, this question illustrates the suffering caused by high rents and low incomes. The question does not tap such issues as malnutrition, but rather simply points to an unenviable choice which many Alaskans face.

4. Employment Status

Full time permanent	7%
Part time permanent	10%
Temporary/seasonal work	9%
Unemployed, seeking work	51%
Unemployed, not looking; discouraged/no work	1%
Unemployed, not looking; unable to work	8%
Unemployed, not looking; don't want to work	1%
Unemployed, not looking; other reason	13%
Hunting, fishing, trapping, etc.	1%

The overall impression that the numbers as well as the interviews convey is one of a very strong desire to work. Only one person flatly stated that she did not want to work, compared to seven who openly declared their preference to remain homeless. Similarly, only one person responded as a discouraged worker (no longer seeking work). Although certainly many of the unemployed who are seeking work experience varying degrees of discouragement, and clearly some job searchers are more diligent than others, people in this (unemployed, seeking work) category share the qualities of a desire to work, hope that work can be found, and the energy to search for it. The numbers indicate that these qualities distinguish a majority of the unemployed.

As we have seen, many people who work at low paying jobs or who find only part time work must spend a large portion of their income on rent, leaving very little for other regular necessities and no margin for unforeseen expenses. In a few cases, relatively small but unavoidable expenses were the straw that broke the camel's back resulting in loss of the home despite retention of the job. Once homeless, it often takes several months to save enough money to move into a new apartment. The spectre of debts incurred during even a brief spell of joblessness can further lengthen the recovery period.

Many of the respondents in the "other" category were retired, a group for whom there was no precise response. The "other" group also contains sporadic itinerant workers who did not define themselves as

"seasonal/temporary". Some of these workers as well as others in the distribution regularly supplement their income by hunting, trapping, and/or fishing.

5. Aid Received: Non-Medical Household

No aid	47%
\$ 1-150	8%
\$151-300	5%
\$301-500	2%
over 500	8%
Claim pending	24%
Receive aid, no amount specified	7%

The large number of pending cases is because many interviews were held at the DPA office where subjects had come to apply or reapply for aid.

Generally speaking, the larger grants were AFDC or disability payments while the smaller grants tended to be food stamps or GR.

6. Aid Received: Medical (Household)

Question: Have you or any member of your household received medical aid in the past 12 months?

Yes	48%
No	43%
Pending	8%

If we assume that while all members of the sample are in dire financial straits and therefore are needy of assistance payments, whereas fewer subjects incurred medical expenses requiring aid, it follows that a higher proportion of medical than non-medical need is being met by existing aid programs even though the percentages of the sample receiving each of the two kinds of aid are nearly identical. One reason for this is the easy access for Native persons to medical care through the ANS system.

Another reason is the existence of Medicaid, a Federal program which has no counterpart in the area of non-medical subsistence relief. Still another explanation is the State's apparently greater willingness to expend grant money for medical needs, as evidenced by the absence of an \$80 cap on GRM payments and a GRM allocation 20 times larger than the allocation for GRA.

C. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1. Age

Under 20	5%
20-30	44%
30-40	28%
40-50	17%
50-60	4%
Over 60	2%

2. Gender

Male	60%
Female	40%

3. Race or Origin (Note: person of Hispanic origin can be of any race).

White	67%
American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut	28%
Hispanic	3%
Black	2%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0%

4. Length of Time in Alaska

Less than 3 months	14%
3 months to 1 year	8%
1 to 5 years	25%
5 to 10 years	10%
More than 10 years	44%

While the numbers suggest that a large proportion of those who have very recently migrated to the State are impoverished, it is not true that the majority of the needy population is composed of recent arrivals: More

than half of the sample has resided in the State for five years or longer; 44% for over ten years. A great number of those in the latter category stressed that they were lifelong residents. The following crosstabulation provides detail:

Homelessness vs. Length of Alaska Residency

Length of Residn	# Homeless	# With Homes	% Homeless w/in Category
Less than 3 months	6	6	50%
3 months to 1 year	5	1	83%
1 year to 5 years	12	9	57%
5 to 10 years	5	3	63%
over 10 years	19	16	54%

Although sample sizes within categories are small, a consistent pattern seems to emerge in which slightly over 50% of respondents in each length of residency category are homeless. This would imply that inability to find and maintain a home are not only characteristics of newcomers to the State but rather of long and short term Alaska residents in nearly equal numbers.

DISCUSSION OF SURVEY RESULTS

Despite the limitations of the study, the resulting information paints a clear portrait of Alaska's homeless and pre-homeless persons which is very different from the traditional homeless stereotype of the middle aged or elderly half crazy alcoholic male whose conscious choice of a vagrant's life mitigates the pity which many reflexively feel for him. The homeless population described in this study is clustered in diverse groups, many of which have little in common but the constant burden of economic hardship. Notwithstanding the unique conditions found in Alaska, the typology of homeless persons implicit in the survey results and analysis is consistent with findings from other major U.S. urban centers.

Although it may never be possible to measure the amount of homelessness or suffering due to imperfections in the economy versus that which is due to failure of individual initiative, there is no doubt that many people are losing their homes or experiencing material deprivation due to personal crises, unemployment, and displacement caused by rapid economic changes; just plain being poor. It is time for the State to more formally study the problems of homelessness and emergency subsistence needs in order to reassess its policies and programs and evaluate alternatives.

V. ISSUE DISCUSSION

1. Inadequacy of the \$80 Grant

This is clearly the central issue of the analysis. The following discussion attempts to describe the various ways in which the current structure falls short of meeting need as well as exploring economic and social factors which continue to erode the effectiveness of the \$80 grant.

Rent levels in Alaska nearly doubled between 1978 and 1983. According to statistics compiled by Municipality of Anchorage researchers from newspaper classified ads over that five year period, the average requested rent for housing units in Anchorage was as follows:

	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
EFFICIENCY	255	240	236	300	322	450
1 Bedroom	323	314	311	371	567	581
2 Bedroom	434	427	397	619	825	710
3 Bedroom	535	580	553	874	1123	998
4 Bedroom	707	699	715	1045	1309	1238
5 Bedroom	921	741	750	1550	1350	1383

Although unfortunately average rental figures for years prior to 1978 were unavailable without undertaking a similar compilation effort, common sense and a serviceable memory tell us that rent levels have been climbing for quite some time. For evidence, we look no further than the needs standard for GR, which was drafted in some distant time when separate categories