



Alaska State Legislature House Democrats

Impacts Of House Finance Budget

CHILDREN:

Child protection system hampered –

- Investigations of child abuse and neglect reduced from 90 percent to 68 percent.
- 32 child protection workers are eliminated in Mat-Su, Fairbanks, Palmer, Delta, Kodiak, Ft. Yukon, Haines, Wrangell, Petersburg and Sitka.
- Eliminates 5 Troopers who work exclusively on child abuse investigations in Palmer, Soldotna, Fairbanks.
- Denies funding for 5 additional child support case workers.

Adoptions/Foster Care Reductions –

- Eliminates nationally awarded "Balloon Project," which finds permanent homes for foster children.
- 22 residential beds lost for children in state custody who cannot be in foster care due to severe and complex problems.
- 5 percent reduction in foster care daily rate (down to \$21/day).

Disabled children at risk – Down from FY02 budget

- Eliminates more than \$1 million for basic services for developmentally disabled Alaskans – 2,500 people will be left on the wait list.
- Eliminates rehabilitative and diagnostic services to 30 high-risk children.
- At least 133-167 individuals and 300-358 families will lose services.
- 53 children with disabling conditions will not receive Infant Learning Program services.

EDUCATION:

School accountability crippled –

- Cuts of \$1.5 million to develop of the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam.
- Eliminates ability to designate schools and hold them accountable.
- Eliminates alternative assessment program for children with disabilities, denying these children diplomas.

Head Start cut –

- Eliminates \$350,000 in state funds ensuring only 23 percent of eligible children can be in the program; research shows we save \$4 for every \$1 spent on Head Start.

EDUCATION CONTINUED.

Diplomas to be denied –

- Lawmakers last session approved a bill giving special-needs students unable to pass the high school graduation exam the chance to earn their diploma by meeting high standards through Individual Education Plans (IEPs). The subcommittee budget would eliminate the \$130,000 needed to carry out that law.

"Smart Start" progress halted –

- Ignored by House Majority.
- \$8.2 million proposed by the Governor to continue this progress would be eliminated.

Eliminates community schools.

UNIVERSITY, VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, AND JOB TRAINING:

University not funded –

- Reverses the trend that puts University on a self-sustaining track.

Job training cuts –

- Eliminates the state's only Certified Nurse Assistant training program.
- Eliminates all state funds for job training programs.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Alaska State Troopers cut –

- Eliminates up to 23 existing Troopers.
- Cut 19 seasonal fish and wildlife aides.
- Cuts four new Rural Public Safety Officers (constables).

Prosecutors eliminated –

- Three state prosecutors will be cut from Anchorage and Fairbanks.

New laws ignored –

- Denies full funding to enforce "Therapeutic courts."
- Denies full funding to enforce .08 the legal blood-alcohol for drunken driving.
- Denies full funding for victim restitution legislation.

Fire prevention –

- Eliminates Alaska's fire prevention program.
- Alaska has three times the national average of deaths from fire

Corrections reduced –

- Cuts 209 community residential beds in Anchorage.
- 25 correctional officers and 7 probation officer positions stay vacant.

Denies funding for avalanche warning system.

PUBLIC HEALTH:

Food safety –

- Eliminates state food inspection of 8,934 restaurants, grocery stores, school kitchens, day care centers and public toilets, with the loss of 6 sanitation inspector jobs in Fairbanks, 2 each in Palmer and Soldotna and many more elsewhere.

Inspection backlogs increase –

- Eliminates 2 boiler inspectors and 1 electrical inspector.
- Eliminates 1 industrial hygienist position.

Alcohol treatment –

- Eliminates case management for DWIs in Mat-Su and Seward.
- Increases wait list for women with children who want alcohol treatment.
- Either 4 adults will not receive residential or 11 will not receive out patient services.

Public health nurses –

- Eliminates as many as 13 positions in clinics around Alaska. These nurses who provide immunizations and laboratory services to basic health care.

Mental health losses –

- 9,720 adults and youth lose mental health services.
- 527 chronically mental health adults lose services.
- 93 severely emotionally disturbed youth lose services.
- 10 beds eliminated at API.
- Eliminate adequate licensing of assisted living homes serving the mentally ill and developmentally disabled community.

Suicide Prevention Council scrapped –

- Eliminates all funds for suicide council.
- Alaska has the highest suicide rate in the nation.

Bio-Terrorism funding in jeopardy.

Tuberculosis danger –

- Reduces ability to prevent the spread of TB.
- Alaska's TB rate is 250 percent above the national average.

Pioneer Homes –

- Reduce beds in Anchorage and Palmer.

WOMEN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE:

- Restricts a woman's constitutional right to choice.

ECONOMIC HEALTH:

Oil Safety and Development –

- Denies initiative to improve North Slope air quality, spill response and permit streamlining.
- \$10 million loss in delayed or deferred lease revenues.

Gas pipeline development –

- Denies fully funding the gas pipeline office.

ECONOMIC HEALTH CONTINUED.

Tourism marketing –

- \$500,000 cut hurts Alaska's ability to attract visitors.
- Places Alaska 45 out of 50 states for tourism marketing.
- Reneges commitment to Millenium Plan to fund for three years.

Occupational licensing –

- Fairbanks office open only to two days per week.

Timber industry cuts –

- 28 percent cut to value-added timber program; reduces the amount of timber available for harvest.

International trade –

- Cuts trade program in China; reneges on three-year commitment.
- Similar initiatives in Japan and Korea expand the sales of Alaska goods and services.

Transportation –

- Reduce Marine Highway System services: Take two ferries off-line: Taku and Bartlett.
- Closure of seven highway maintenance stations: Birch Lake, Cold Foot, Chitina, Trims, Willow, Kalsin Bay, and Ninilchik.
- Elimination of winter maintenance of many roads: Steese Hwy., Elliott Hwy., various Nome-area roads, Ruby/Poorman Road.
- Eliminating road maintenance in Juneau, Petersburg, Hoonah, Skagway, Angoon, Hyder, and Wrangell.
- Elimination of equipment officers in Gustavus, Haines, Juneau, Skagway, Klawock, and Ketchikan.
- Anchorage: cut 1/3 of snow haul money; impact specifically Dimond, Muldoon/Tudor, Northern Lights/Benson, Fireweed, Gambell/Ingra, “A”/”C” couplet.

Close state parks –

- Shut down 28 state parks or park facilities in Kenai, Fairbanks, Mat-Su and Southeast (such as Hatcher Pass, Independence Mine).
- Kasilof, Nikiski, Palmer and Ketchikan will lose business activity, local sales tax revenues and recreation access.

Motor vehicles –

- Increase wait times for vehicle registration and driver's license renewals.

Local support –

- Eliminate \$29.6 million for municipal revenue sharing and Safe Communities Program based on a promise to fund them from Permanent Fund earnings.
- Jeopardizes local services such as fire, police, sewer and road maintenance.
- Smaller communities could be forced to dissolve.

ECONOMIC HEALTH CONTINUED.

Fisheries –

- Force Fish and Game boards to make decisions on commercial and sport fishing without adequate data on subsistence use.
- Eliminate major state commercial fisheries programs such as crab management.

RURAL ALASKA:

Eliminate state subsistence division –

- Eliminate all state funding (\$1.1 million) for Fish and Game's Subsistence Division.
- Subsistence harvests will no longer be monitored and boards will have to rely on outdated or incomplete information.

Short-funding Power Cost Equalization –

- Failure to fully fund PCE; assistance cut to 85 percent.
- Rural Alaskans paying more than double for power than urban Alaskans.

Cut fisheries management –

- Cuts (in addition to the subsistence cuts) would require the elimination of several fisheries programs, such as the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands crab program and the world-class genetics lab which performs stock identification to support fisheries management.

VPSO support –

- Troopers supporting VPSOs would be slashed, leaving villages without adequate backup for major public safety incidents.
- Elimination of 6 of 9 State Trooper positions and 4 RPSOs.

(End)