



NEWS FROM *MARY*

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House Budget Subcommittees Recommend Cuts

The House budget subcommittees are completing their work this week. Recommendations for funding levels of state services and programs will then go to the full House Finance Committee for consideration. Each budget subcommittee chair was given an allocation (or a cap) to meet. For most departments the cap meant the subcommittee had to identify reductions within the department from last year's funding level. If you recall from news earlier this year, the legislative majorities decided to ignore Governor Knowles' operating budget requests which included additional funding for education and investments in child-related programs, including health services, child care, and youth detention.

On Saturday, March 4, the House Finance Committee has scheduled a **state-wide teleconferenced public hearing** on the budget. The time allotted for rural Alaska, including the rural LIO's, is 11:00 - 1:00. While there are some obvious areas of concern to rural Alaska in terms of recommended levels of cuts to specific programs, I encourage you to take the opportunity to testify in support of any state-funded program that you consider valuable in your community. For example, no decision has yet been made about the level of **Municipal Assistance and Revenue Sharing**. The full Finance Committee will be addressing that issue. We have no long term funding source for **PCE**. You may wish to comment on **public broadcasting, domestic violence or VPSO funding**--or funding for your **schools**. The important thing is, this is an opportunity to share concerns from our area.

Next week the House Finance Committee will consider amendments to the subcommittee's recommendations. If you did not testify at the March 4 meeting, you can still voice your opinion by contacting House Finance Committee members. The majority is looking for \$30 million in cuts, so our message concerning programs that are important to us are important.

Mary Kapsner

To Testify on the Budget

Saturday, March 4

11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Go to the Legislative Information Office in Bethel or Dillingham.

If you live outside Bethel or Dillingham you may call toll free:

1-800-368-8772.

There will be five lines available so you will be asked to hang up after your testimony so another caller can get through.

After March 4

Direct your messages to the Finance Committee Members directly or fax your statement to my office and I'll be happy to send it on.

Dates to Note

March 31, 2000

PFD Deadline

Be sure to get your applications in the mail before the deadline!

April 1, 2000

**Alaska Humanities Forum
Grant Application Deadline**

If you are working on a project that involves history, culture, literature or other humanities subject you may wish to apply for this grant.

For additional information or a copy of the grant guidelines, contact the Forum at (907) 272-5341.

Visitors from Home . . .



Tribal Administrators from the Bristol Bay region were in the Capitol this week to learn about the legislative process works and to share local issues and concerns with Senator Hoffman and myself.

Office Notes . . .

I know how helpful it is for me when I call an office and have a face to put with the name of the person on the other end. Many of you have called this session--or perhaps will be calling--so I'm pleased to be able to include a staff photo.



Standing behind me, pictured from left to right: Lissa Robertson, our super intern through the University; Trim Nick who I'm delighted to have join my staff from Bethel (originally Nunapitchuk); and Pat Jackson, a veteran legislative aide who has worked for rural legislators, starting with John Binkley in 1985.