



LEGISLATIVE Alert:

March 9, 2014

HB 72/73: Operating Budget

LEGISLATIVE PUBLIC COMMENT THIS WEEK on the Operating Budget!!

If you missed one of the opportunities to provide public comment to the House Finance Committee this week, please email members of the committee by March 9, and include your legislator as well.

Talking Points

All Alaskans have concern about the budget crunch the state is experiencing this year. We hope you will express your thoughts to legislators during the opportunity for Public Comment before the House Finance Committee.

Thank the Committee for maintaining the Home and Community Based Waivers and continued support of drawing families off the wait list.

Support funding to Alaska Legal Services, who provides civil legal services to persons with disabilities. (They cut \$40%. i.e. \$200,000 out of \$550,000)

Support adult day services for seniors. (They cut one third, or \$500 K, which will result in closures of programs)

Medicaid Expansion and Reform –The Council has provided lots of ideas to save the state money with Medicaid reforms, like recycling durable medical equipment, allowing for telepractice in the delivery of waiver services, when appropriate, and hiring more people with disabilities. The conversation is now wrapped up in both reform and expansion of Medicaid. We want the legislature to address it.

Thank you for taking the time to express your opinion!
You can contact members of the House Finance Committee [here](#).
Here are [HB 72](#) and [HB 73](#)
You can read the GCDSE's position paper on Medicaid [here](#).

Tracking

The Council continues to track the progress of the following bills:

[HB 99](#): Voluntary Termination of Life

[HB 18](#): Expand Medicaid Coverage

Priorities

HB 76: Removing the word “gifted” from GCDSE enabling statute

This bill relates to the removal of the word ‘Gifted’ from the Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education Enabling Statute, as gifted children are not eligible for services facilitated by the GCDSE. The House Health and Social Services Committee held the first hearing on HB 76 Tuesday, March 3th, and passed the bill out of Committee on March 5. The next stop is House Rules for calendaring for a House floor vote.

Read the bill [here](#).

Read the GCDSE's position paper [here](#).

HB 77: Disability training and ID bill

This bill relates to the training regarding disabilities for police officers, probation officers, parole officers, correctional officers, and village public safety officers, establishing guidelines for drivers when encountering or being stopped by a peace officer to be tested in driver's license examinations; and providing an option for a voluntary disability designation on a state identification card and driver's license .

You can read the bill [here](#).

You can read the GCDSE's position paper on the bill [here](#).

SB 49:Civil Legal Services Fund

This bill relates to the appropriation of funds to the civil legal services fund from court filings fees. The council supports this bill and has provided a letter of support.

Read the bill [here](#).

HB 102: Residential Psychiatric Education Funding

This bill relates to providing funding of educational services for students in residential psychiatric treatment centers.

You can read the bill [here](#)

You can contact members of the House Education Committee [here](#)

SB26/HB71: Capital Budget

This bill relates to the funding of capital projects in the state budget. Remember, we have one item we would like to see in the capital budget which is not there now, i.e. \$995,000 to support the final phase of the Denali Deaf Center in Anchorage. It is very important that supporters keep mentioning this to legislators at every chance they get.

A copy of our position paper is [here](#);

You can contact members of the Senate Finance committee [here](#) and the House Finance Committee [here](#)