



ALASKA STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees Local 52

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Governor Michael Dunleavy
550 W 7th Avenue
STE. 1700
Anchorage, AK, 99501

October 16, 2020

Dear Governor Dunleavy:

As you know, Alaska is facing a potential \$2.5 billion budget deficit. In turn, our elected state and local government officials will face incredibly difficult decisions. Absent any action to address revenue shortfall, decision makers will feel forced to make devastating cuts to programs and services. These actions will eliminate essential services, harm Alaska families, and put dedicated, experienced Alaska public service workers out of their jobs – all hurting our already damaged economy.

All the while, Alaska is at the brink of crisis with rising cases of COVID-19. Positive cases have skyrocketed and are expected to double, if not triple, every twenty days. This is compounded by seasonal low temperatures resulting in more indoor activities which increase exposure.

Alaska doesn't have enough contact tracers to keep up with these climbing rates. Our medical facilities and professionals across the state will be overwhelmed if our case numbers continue their upward trend. Most importantly, frontline workers lack the necessary guidance and equipment they need to stay safe,

These issues won't magically disappear. Our lives depend on the action we take. If Alaska's elected officials don't lead now, we will all suffer. COVID-19 and Alaska's budget crisis are not Republican or Democrat problems, just as this is not a Red State vs. Blue State crisis.

All hope is not yet lost. Help is available and you are at the helm. Alaska needs you to take action at this most critical moment. The course you set for our state will have a profound impact on generations to come. We are counting on your leadership and influence to minimize the looming economic injury which can be avoided through additional federal aid for state and local governments.

Senators Dan Sullivan and Lisa Murkowski need to know that we need their advocacy. We need them to put Alaska first to support a relief package for state and local governments. We ask that you stand tall in support of Alaska, Alaska's frontline workers, and medical professionals whose lives depend on swift action now.

Please do all you can to secure relief funding for Alaska. If we wait any longer, the damage to Alaskans is incalculable. Please don't hesitate to contact our office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jake Metcalfe
Executive Director
ASEA/AFSCME Local 52

