



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Native Peoples Action, Inc.

(907) 917-0854

PO Box 210914

Anchorage, AK 99521-0914

info@nativepeoplesaction.org

www.nativepeoplesaction.org

NPA Response to Gov. Dunleavy's Vetoes

NPA urges Alaska to contact legislators, override Dunleavy's vetoes

Governor Dunleavy's budget cuts of \$444 million with 182 line item vetoes will have drastic lasting impacts now and into the future. The balanced and responsible operating budget previously presented by the legislature protected essential services that Alaskans deserve. The Governor's vetoes will leave Alaska in an economic crisis with little concern for the well being of Alaskans. These cuts will devastate the University of Alaska, jeopardize funding for statewide public education, cuts \$6M from the VPSO program, eliminates funds for Utqiagvik Prosecutor's office, cuts millions of dollars to therapeutic courts, domestic violence prevention and homeless shelters across the state, cuts \$6.1M from behavioral health treatment and recovery, cuts an additional \$50M to Medicaid services, and completely eliminates funding for senior benefits programs and k-12 forward funding.

A message from NPA's Executive Director, Kendra Kloster:

"These budget vetoes make it clear that Gov. Dunleavy does not share Alaskan values and demonstrates his lack of compassion for the wellness of our people, for our children who are the future of Alaska and our Elders who have built our state.

These cuts are short-sighted for the long-term stability of Alaska. By not funding essential medical services, this will lead Alaskans to seek expensive emergency care, decreasing the school bond debt reimbursement will lead to increased property taxes, and the millions in cuts to the already neglected behavioral health and treatment centers will only perpetuate health and safety issues in our communities.

The Governor's lack of understanding in how to create a prosperous economy and truly represent the people continues to be present in his actions. Alaskans deserve better than these vetoes.

It is time we activate our voices. Legislators have the opportunity to override these vetoes and we must encourage them to stand with the people of Alaska."

Alaskans, it is time for action. It is time to use your voices, to stand up for our state and our people. We encourage you to contact your legislators and urge them to override the Governor's vetoes. We need 45 votes to override the Governor's vetoes. As Alaskans, we know our children and Elders are worth investing in. We know that protecting our people and creating opportunities for wellness is not only important, but necessary.

To find contact information for your legislators visit www.akleg.gov or call 907-465-4648. The time to act is now.

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Media Contact:

Communications Director

Kelsey Ciugun Wallace

907.799.6149 | kelsey@nativepeoplesaction.org

Native Peoples Action, Inc.

is an Alaska Native non-profit organization. We strive to provide Alaska Native peoples, communities, and our traditional values with a voice at all levels of policy making.