

Alaska State Legislature



Official Business

September 19, 2025

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator for Alaska
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senator for Alaska
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nick Begich III
United States Representative for Alaska
153 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re. Support for research funding and investments in higher education for the University of Alaska.

Dear Alaska Delegation Members,

As your partners in the Alaska Legislature, we write you today to urge your support for maintaining Federal research funding and investments in higher education to ensure stability for the University of Alaska. We appreciate the efforts of our congressional delegation in supporting the University, including ensuring the federal government lives up to its land grant with the passage of the University of Alaska Fiscal Foundation Act of 2022.

The Federal fiscal year 2026 budget that has been introduced by the President includes steep cuts to important Federal research agencies, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and many more important Federal agencies that work closely with the University of Alaska. The University of Alaska – and especially the University of Alaska Fairbanks – conducts world-class arctic research that helps to lead the world in solving practical challenges that face the Arctic and beyond. These funding cuts jeopardize that research, United States' arctic dominance in defense efforts, and our dominance as an institution in global scientific research. Additionally, these cuts put America at a disadvantage to our adversaries. It is essential that investment in Arctic research continue unabated to defend our country from our enemies who are watching these cuts with great interest.

Over the past 10 years, the University has navigated a difficult financial climate. In 2019, following a 41% funding cut by the Governor, the University had to declare financial exigency. In the years since 2019 and following many difficult budgeting decisions, the University budget has stabilized. Today, enrollment is increasing. The billions in cuts proposed by the President will result in millions in lost funding for the University of Alaska and could force the University into another financial emergency. Unfortunately, the State of Alaska is not in the financial position to backfill these lost funds, and many more research programs and staff will need to be cut. This will not only impact the quality and status of the University's research, but it will also have many negative downstream impacts on Alaska's economy and communities across our state.

As you balance your budget priorities, we urge you to oppose federal funding cuts for research and higher education.

Alaska State Capitol
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801



Representative Ashley Carrick



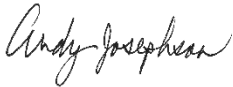
Representative Robyne Burke



Representative Maxine Dibert



Representative Ky Holland



Representative Andy Josephsen



Representative Rebecca Himschoot



Representative Alyse Galvin



Representative Sara Hannan



Representative Andrew Gray



Representative Carolyn Hall



Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson



Senator Bill Wielechowski



Senator Löki Tobin



Senator Scott Kawasaki