

Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes
Midtown Community Council
March 8, 2023

- Bill Hearings have started, and I have presented five bills to the first committees as follows:
 - **Senate Bill 22-** Making Juneteenth a state holiday was heard in front of the Senate State Affairs Committee, and had a second hearing February 28th at 3:30. It was moved out of State Affairs Committee and will be heard in Finance Committee. No scheduled date yet.
 - **Senate Bill 24-** Mental Health in Schools was heard in front of the Senate Education Committee. A Second hearing was held on March 6th. The bill has been referred to the Health and Social Services Committee.
 - **Senate Bill 23-** Use of Force Registry will have its first hearing in front of Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee on March 9th at 1:30.
 - **Senate Bill 30-** Filipino Heritage Month had its first hearing in front of State Affairs Committee on February 28th. No scheduled second meeting yet.
 - **Senate Bill 32-** Chokehold Ban was heard in front of Senate State Affairs Committee. The public hearing remains open and will have a second hearing soon.
 - **Senate Bill 43-** Health and Personal Safety (Sex Education in Schools) was heard in front of Senate Education Committee. The public hearing remains open.

- On February 21st, I was formally nominated and elected by my peers on Legislative Council to serve as chair of the Committee. During the organizational meeting, the Committee approved measures that help the Legislature perform efficiently, so we can better serve the public. We approved the 2023 Manual of Legislative Drafting, and reviewed the Council's budget and forwarded it to the budget subcommittee. We also received a presentation on the annual audit of the Legislature, which was a clean report. I am looking forward to working with Vice Chair Kevin McCabe and other members of the Legislative Council, including Senate President Gary Stevens and Speaker of the House Cathy Tilton.

- I continue to meet with constituents and other folks representing different organizations regarding their priorities. I continue to work with other legislators regarding our priorities and ways to support our priorities during this session.
 - **Healthcare field** - I have met with All Alaska Pediatric Partnership, Naturopathic Doctors, Jen Opsut the CEO of Alaska Regional Hospital, and various ER Doctors from Anchorage. They all have similar priorities, whether it be funding, compact bills, and licensing.
 - I also met with several School districts personnel and superintendents throughout the state and heard testimony from more than 50 different school district with all supporting SB52 which increases the BSA by \$1,000.

- Sunday March 5th, I was in joined other Anchorage Legislators at a Town Hall meeting and listened to concerns from the community. The attendance was standing room only with testimony focused on increasing the BSA and returning to a Defined Benefit Retirement System.

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- **March is National Disability Awareness month, and Women's History Month.**

Women's History Month started off as just a weeklong celebration in 1982 but continued to pass joint resolutions in Congress. In 1987 it was designated as a month-long celebration in March. This designation states that each president should proclaim March as Women's History Month, and each president has done so. These proclamations give notice to the contributions women have made to the United States and many of the achievements they have made. I am proud to be a woman in legislation and set the path for girls who want to be in politics.

National Disability Awareness Month was first declared in 1987 by former President Ronald Reagan. It brings to the front the understanding, and encouragement to help persons with disabilities to have fulfilling lives. Everyone wants and deserves a great quality of life. As you might not know one of my bills passed in the 32nd Legislature. Senate Bill 47 is an act relating to special registration plates for vehicles owned by persons with disabilities.

Always representing your interests!



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