



Alaska State Legislature

Office of Senator Löki Gale Tobin

Legislative Update

We are just over halfway through this legislative session. This is a difficult update to write. Last Thursday, the Governor vetoed SB 140 and on Monday the Legislature failed to override that veto by a vote of 39-20. As one of the lead negotiators for the Senate Majority, I worked diligently to find a pathway forward on SB 140. Unfortunately, a minority group of legislators blocked a good compromise on education policy. While those same legislators are indicating they are ready to make another compromise on the previous compromise that was a compromise between Senate Bill 52 (sponsored by the Senate Education Committee, which I chair) and the House Majority education policy requirements, I struggle on what can come next. I strongly believe in finding a bipartisan pathway forward to provide adequate stable and predictable funding for our public schools and I will continue to fight to bring a meaningful increase to the Base Student Allocation. We must invest in successful implementation of the Alaska Reads Act, increase resources for pupil transportation, reduce class sizes, and invest in retaining Alaska's education labor force. Even in the face of this setback, I believe we have made and will continue to make progress in fighting for the future of our public schools.

Last Tuesday, the Alaska State Legislature met in joint session to review and vote upon the Governor's executive orders (EO) which sought to terminate or drastically change 12 volunteer-led boards and commissions. Including in these were the Board of Massage Therapists, Board of Direct-Entry Midwives, and fundamentally change the composition of the Marine Highways Operations Board. All but four of the EOs were rejected by the Legislature.

The first week in March, my teammate Louie Flora and I presented SB 176 in the Senate Judiciary Committee to increase community representation on the Alaska Board of Parole. The right to rehabilitation is enshrined in our constitution and unfortunately, all forms of parole have seen a significant decrease since 2017. This may be because our current Board of Parole is comprised of just 5 members and can hear up to 1,000 hearings a year. We also heard in committee that perspectives

on the Board may not be rooted in the current criminal justice paradigm of rehabilitation and restoration. SB 176 will create designated seats for a representative with substance use treatment experience, a victim or victim rights advocate, Alaska Native tribal member, and a person who was formerly incarcerated. Increase perspectives and voices on the Board of Parole increases the ability of the Board to serve the interests of Alaskans.

Last week, my teammate Mike Mason and I presented SB 27 which guarantees insurance coverage for dispensing 12 months of prescribed contraceptives to ensure access and flexibility for all Alaskans. We know that access to family planning increases maternal health, reduces the gender pay gap, decreases child poverty, increases education attainment, and results in healthier families.

Please join me on March 30th at 10am at the Fairview Recreation Center for a community gathering on the alternatives presented in the Glenn Seward Mobility Study. For any updates, make sure to check out my official Senate Facebook page or follow me on threads for more information.

Join us for the District I
**SEWARD TO GLENN PEL
CONSTITUENT
MEETING**
CO-HOSTED BY AMATS
with Senator Löki Gale Tobin
10:00 am - 12:00 pm Fairview Rec Center

**SATURDAY
MARCH 30**

Please reach out via email (sen.loki.tobin@akleg.gov) or phone (907-465-3704) or subscribe to our online newsletter if you would like to receive more frequent updates between now and the next community council meeting. Subscribe at lgtobin.substack.com!

To follow along, watch the Alaska Legislature live, you can tune into floor and committee hearings at AKL.tv.



For in depth dives and interviews with legislators and stakeholders, please check out my office's podcast! Available on Apple Podcast, Spotify, Good Podcast, and anywhere else you listen to podcasts.

Personal Legislation

SB 27: *Contraceptive Coverage* (Ability to receive 12-months of birth control).

SB 46: *Brain Injury Awareness Month* (AK has the highest rates of traumatic brain injury).

SB 100: *Access to Marijuana Conviction Records* (expunging marijuana violations from court view from before personal use was made legal).

SB 101: *Renewable Portfolio Standards*

SB 109: *Employee Rights and Employer Speech* (prohibits an employer from requiring an employee listening to employer personal beliefs of opinions in a captive audience meeting).

SB 115: *Physician Assistant Scope of Practice* (improving patient care and access).

SB 229: *Extreme Risk Protective Orders* (allows family members or law enforcement to petition a judge to remove a firearm from the environment of a person deemed at risk of harming themselves or others, al known as red flag laws).

SJR 17: *Urge Congress to Extend the Deadline for Expend Federal American Rescue Plan Children and Homeless Youth*

SB 175: *Establishing a manufacturer-funded system for electronic device recycling*