

Turnagain Community Council – Senator Gray-Jackson’s Report

April 4, 2019

- Last month, I proudly introduced a bill with Senator Donny Olson that would declare November as Alaska Native Heritage Month.
- On Monday, March 18, 2019, I introduced another bill co-sponsored by Senators Olson, Costello, Kawasaki and Wilson that would declare April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
- We are receiving many emails, phone calls, and letters from constituents disappointed with the Governor’s proposed budget. Below you will find a breakdown of Governor Dunleavy’s budget elimination proposals:
- **Education and Early Development Cuts**
 - Cuts over \$300 million from k-12 education formula.
 - Eliminates all early childhood education grant programs including pre-K, Best Beginnings, Head Start and more.
- **University**
 - Cuts %155 million (nearly half) of University of Alaska funding.
- **Health and Social Services**
 - Eliminates Senior Benefits program.
 - Cuts Pioneer Home funding in half and raises fees.
 - Cuts \$ 271 million from Medicaid services.
 - Cuts dental care for low income Alaskans.
 - Alaska Psychiatric Institute-3.2 million reduction.
- **Public Safety**
 - Cuts Public Safety budget 11.5%.
 - Cuts State Trooper \$21 million.
 - Cuts 56 full-time Public Safety employees.
 - Cuts \$3 million from Village Public Safety Officer program.
- **Oil Tax Credits**
 - Increases the budget by \$227 million to pay for MORE oil tax credits, on top of the already existing \$1.9 billion.
- **Governor’s Office**
 - Increases the Governor’s budget by 7.6%
- **Other proposed cuts**
 - Refuses \$ 480 million in federal funds.
 - Cuts 75% of Marine Highway Funding.
 - Eliminates Power Cost Equalization fund.
 - Eliminates public broadcasting funds.