

Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes
Spenard Community Council
September 6, 2023

Welcome back to school, students! Stay focused on your goals and don't forget to make time for fun too. You all have so much potential- now go out there and seize it!

National Conference of State Legislators

- A couple of weeks ago, I had the privilege of joining legislators and legislative staff from all over the country for the National Conference of State Legislators. The National Conference of State Legislatures, created by state legislators and legislative staff in 1975, serves America's 50 states, commonwealths, territories, and the District of Columbia.
- The conference offers several opportunities to learn and network. One of the conference's highlights was the artificial intelligence (AI) session. The summary for the session was: The potential of artificial intelligence to transform our daily lives is quickly becoming a reality. Learn about the latest AI developments and their potential impact on businesses and governments. Explore what a commitment to "responsible AI" looks like in practice and how to prepare the workforce for the digital future.
- Also, during the conference, we discussed and considered a wide range of policy directives and resolutions. You can read both on their website!

I also serve on the Budget and Revenue Committee which is responsible for protecting states' interest in federal decisions regarding fiscal matters including annual action on the federal budget.

Ombudsman's Office

The Alaska State Ombudsman investigates citizen complaints about administrative acts of state agencies and determines appropriate remedies. The Ombudsman is not an advocate. They look at complaints with an independent, objective, and neutral eye. The Ombudsman investigates to determine whether an agency's actions were unlawful, unreasonable, unfair, arbitrary, erroneous, or inefficient. If appropriate, the Ombudsman will recommend a way to resolve the complaint and/or prevent future complaints.

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Ombudsman investigations are confidential. When there is a substantial public interest involved, the Ombudsman will publish a public summary of an investigation, findings, and any recommendations.

The Alaska State Ombudsman is relaunching a quarterly newsletter to help people stay up to date about what their office does.

Community Engagement

- Recently, my Chief of Staff and I joined numerous Legislators and staff on a tour of a state-run facility in Palmer. The plants Material Center was established by the Alaska Legislature in 1972 to promote the state's agricultural industry. We also visited Alaska's largest electric utility to see power generation in action. Chugach Electric hosted this special event for Alaska's legislators at its Headquarters Campus. During the tour, we discussed power generation, renewable energy, and their plans for energy generation for consumers. Lastly, I had the privilege of meeting with a group of wonderful individuals from Cameroon. I was joined by the Mayor of the Tiko Council in Cameroon, HRH Chief Peter Ikome Mesoso III. I was also joined by Welisabe Mokwe Nkeng who is a diplomat, journalist, and gender advocate. We were able to speak about the opportunity for partnership and support. I look forward to working with such dedicated individuals soon!

Please stay tuned for an update regarding my bills and next sessions' legislative priorities!

Always feel free to reach out to me during the Session and the Interim. I'm here for you.

Always representing your interests!



Interim: 907 269-0174 Session: 907-465-4930

Email: Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov, Besse.Odom@akleg.gov, Jeff.Stepp@akleg.gov