

# The Office of Senator Dyson

District I, Eagle River, Alaska



## Fall 2010 Newsletter

We are now in the early winter season and most of us are busy with the fall rituals of hunting, settling our kids into school, winterizing our homes, vehicles and other possessions. In this time of preparation, my staff and I are working with our veterans, business leaders, community members, educational leaders and fellow legislators in preparation for the 27<sup>th</sup> Alaska Legislature.



Sen. Fred Dyson speaks at signing ceremony of SB220

This Spring I worked with fellow legislators on some excellent legislation now signed into law by Governor Parnell. This legislation will attract investment in Alaska's energy sector and stimulate the economy (SB220); protect our children from online sexual predation (SB222); and protect our privacy from unnecessary intrusion by government (SB110).

It was also a delight for me to sponsor SB274, along with Rep. Wes Keller, naming the new state sport fish hatchery on Elmendorf Air Force Base after William Jack Hernandez, a true hero of World War II and a greatly admired fish biologist who served 26 years pioneering the fish research and hatchery programs on what is now Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson.

*Looking Ahead to the 27<sup>th</sup> Alaska Legislature* - I plan to carry forward from the 26<sup>th</sup> Alaska Legislature two important pieces of legislation to improve property owner rights: SB200 - protecting property owners from capricious land use regulations that change a previously permitted land use; and SB297 - improving property owner's ability to recover property seized by the government. This proposed legislation can be reviewed online at <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/start.asp>.

Consistent with my commitment to the Constitutional principles of religious liberty and freedom of conscience I plan to introduce legislation providing for the protection and reasonable accommodation of a health care provider's expression of conscience, and to protect unborn children from suffering pain needlessly during an abortion by offering women the option of anesthesia for the unborn child. It is my fervent hope that our society will become a culture that supports and defends life, but until that day I will continue to fight for the protection of unborn children.

### *Suicide Prevention Council Appointment*

On November 20, 2009 Governor Parnell welcomed my appointment to the council by state Senate President Gary Stevens. I am working with fellow council members, rural and urban community leaders, faith-based groups and State and Tribal resources to reverse the extraordinary rate of suicide in Alaska.

### *Capital Budget*

Our Chugiak-Eagle River legislative delegation, led by Rep. Anna Fairclough, was able to secure \$2.6 million to fix the flooding problems in Eagle Glen subdivision. This fall a new culvert was placed underneath the Glenn Highway to drain this subdivision. Next summer the Breckenridge Drive improvements will take place to redirect the runoff to this new culvert.

### *Education*

Our Chugiak-Eagle River legislative delegation recently met with all school district principals in our area to identify school needs. We will work with our House and Senate Finance committee representatives to ensure our schools get the equipment and improvements they need. Much thanks to Homestead Elementary Principal Barbara Nagengast for coordinating this valuable meeting. I will do all I can to support excellence in our schools, and provide more parental choice and control in the education of their youth.

### *Department of Corrections Success*

I am encouraged to see the good results of the Department of Corrections' faith-based Transformational Living Community (TLC) program at both Hiland Mountain and Palmer Correctional Center. Nationally, 67% of released prisoners are rearrested for a new offense inside of 3 years. Only 33% of TLC program graduates are rearrested within 3 years. Notably, this program is entirely paid for by donations from the private sector, and greatly increases the public safety while decreasing the tremendous cost of incarceration.

### *Health and Fitness*

This year I have been looking for ways to promote health and fitness in our community and state. I am currently sitting on the *Alaskans Taking on Childhood Obesity Task Force*. We are looking for ways to address the obesity epidemic in our society. Today, 37% of K-12 students in Anchorage School District are considered overweight. Much of our current healthcare crisis results from the costs of ever increasing rates of preventable diseases like diabetes and cardiovascular disease attributable to obesity. I want to do all I can to encourage individuals, families and youth to eat healthy, exercise and play together.



### *Alaska Parental Notification Initiative Victory!*

In the past two legislative sessions I sponsored SB6 - An Act relating to notice and consent for a minor's abortion. Although this bill did not receive support in the Senate, I am pleased that a statewide effort of concerned citizens resulted in an overwhelming victory for parental rights.

I welcome your thoughts and ideas on how to address the important public policy questions with which we are confronted. I remain committed to strengthening our homes and families, supporting our veterans and active duty service men and women, and pursuing the best possible solutions to our energy needs.

I wish you a blessed Thanksgiving and pray you are able to enjoy it with a loved one,

Fred Dyson