

Unemployment

- We have received many emails from constituents wondering when the additional \$300 unemployment boost would happen. These funds are desperately needed by those out of work, who count on this money for food and rent. As of Friday, October 30th, the State Labor Department said the delay is due to the outdated hardware and software systems. They are working on putting systems in to correct the problem and will get the payments out as soon as possible.

Juneau and COVID-19

- On October 29th, a Legislative Council meeting was held, and the Council approved a new COVID-19 Screening Process for use within the Capitol during the next session which begins on January 19th.
- Daily screenings are required for legislators, legislative staff, and credentialed media personnel prior to entering the Capitol. The Capitol is otherwise closed to the public.

Governor Dunleavy's emergency COVID-19 declaration is set to expire November 15, 2020.

- The Governor has been sent several letters from the Alaska Municipal League and other agencies requesting that he call a special session for the Legislature to extend the Executive order. We need 40 legislators to call a special session. Health care providers may lose key flexibilities afforded by "blanket waivers" from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and key provisions from SB 241. Telemedicine will also be significantly impaired if the extension does not happen prior to November 15th. The

**Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes
Turnagain Community Council
November 5, 2020**

Legislature holds the exclusive power to extend the disaster and it is anticipated that there will be a special session in the near future.

The Governor's budget is due by December 15, 2020.

I am hopeful that the cuts made will not be to Medicare, education or to resources that are vital for our State's most vulnerable.

If you are not receiving my monthly newsletter, and interested, please let me know.

Interim: 907-269-0174

Session: 907-465-4930

Email: Keith.Bauguess@akleg.gov