

**Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes**  
**Midtown Community Council**  
**February 1, 2023**

- Constituent meetings are in full force! During my first week, I've met and talked with folks representing different organizations regarding their priorities. I've also met with Legislators regarding my pre-filed bills and discussed ways to gain their support to push these bills forward. We started the first few weeks of session off with a bang!
  - I met with the Alaska Hospital and Healthcare Association's CEO Jared Kosin about ways to help the nursing shortage in this State.
  - I met with Senator Bjorkman, Chair of Labor and Commerce and Senator Kawasaki, Chair of State Affairs to schedule hearings on my bills sooner than later to help in getting them to the finish line.
- I serve on three committees: Labor & Commerce, Community & Regional Affairs and Education. Committee meetings are happening, and we are hearing from various departments prior to bill hearings. The Education Committee has held public hearings on the BSA and is currently working a bill to increase the amount.
- I am honored that my peers in the Senate selected me to be a member of the Senate Leadership team, serving in the role of Legislative Council Chair. Legislative Council was established by the Alaska Constitution, Article 2, Section 11. The council sets policy for the legislature and oversees the day-to-day administrative functions for the legislature, such as accounting, property management, technology services and many more critical functions of the legislative branch of government.
- My priorities remain ***establishing a comprehensive and sustainable fiscal plan, public safety, infrastructure*** and, of course, a focus on ***education*** and doing the right thing for our children.

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- Below are bills that I introduced during the 31<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Legislatures that I pre-filed to be introduced during the 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature which began on January 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - Chokehold Ban
  - Use of Force Registry
  - Mental Health in Schools
  - Juneteenth Paid Holiday
  
- New Legislation
  - Charitable Healthcare
  - Officer Certification through Training to include de-escalation and cultural training
  
- There are several Board Positions available at the link below.  
<https://gov.alaska.gov/services/boards-and-commissions/apply-for-a-board-appointment/>

This type of public service is among the most effective way for Alaskans to participate in, and take ownership of, their own governance. Citizen membership allows Alaskans to provide advice to State agencies on specific issues, provides regulation for industries, ensures consumer protection, and impacts official policies. Being appointed to a board or commission allows Alaskans to contribute to the public process and make a positive impact in their communities. Please consider applying for a board or commission by clicking the button below.

February is Black History Month. During the 31<sup>st</sup> Legislature, Senate Bill 40 passed which encompasses Black History Month within State Statutes. This month brings public awareness to the many contributions African Americans had on education, arts, laws, and various other categories. It is too often, society neglects the accomplishments of African Americans in our culture, and lives. What started as a week long celebration in 1925 from Carter G. Woodson, has turned into a month

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long recognition of the importance of Black History from former President Gerald R. Ford in 1975. In 1986, Congress passed the National Black History Month to be observed throughout the month of February. Then in February 1996, the United States Senate passed a Senate Resolution which recognizes the contributions Black American Senators have had to our country.

February is also Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. One in three U.S. Teens will experience dating violence- i.e., physical, sexual, or emotional abuse from someone they are in a relationship with, exclusive or not. Love is Respect, is a national organization that brings awareness to domestic violence for survivors. They are hosting a theme for this awareness month - it is **"Be about it."** We need to create a world/environment free from relationship abuse. If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, please reach out for help at STAR, Alaska Native Justice Center, or AWAIC.

STAR- 907-276-7273

ANJC- 907-793-3550

AWAIC- 907-272-0100

*Always representing your interests!*



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Email:      [Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov), [Besse.Odom@akleg.gov](mailto:Besse.Odom@akleg.gov),  
[Harlyn.Andrew@akleg.gov](mailto:Harlyn.Andrew@akleg.gov)