

Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes
Midtown Community Council
January 7, 2025

- Governor Dunleavy released his budget proposal on December 12th. Here is a summary of the Governor's Key Highlights in his budget proposal:
 - **Public Safety**
 - Increased funding in outer areas of the state.
 - **Education**
 - \$1.5B total for K-12 education, including \$1.1B for foundation funding.
 - \$2.75M for teacher recruitment and career/technical education.
 - **Energy Development**
 - \$50M for AK LNG Project Advancement
 - \$6.3M for renewable energy grants
 - **Affordability**
 - \$6M for expanded childcare assistance.
 - **A full statutory PFD in 2025 - \$3,800.**
- As the Governor stated in his budget, this is just a starting point. My office will provide updates on the budget as hearings are held and finance subcommittee meetings begin.
- The Senate Majority will focus on lowering Alaska's high energy costs, improving education, and revitalizing Alaska's economy.
- As mentioned last month, below are a few of the bills I'm excited to reintroduce for the upcoming legislative session. I'm committed to building on the progress we made last session and passing key pieces of legislation that almost made it to the finish line last year. These bills address important issues impacting our communities, from education to public safety:

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- **Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) Program** will mandate the inclusion of AAPI history and culture in the curriculum of all Alaskan public schools.
 - **CPR Curriculum** will require school districts to teach CPR to students at appropriate grade levels.
 - **Mental Health Education** will require all school districts to integrate age-appropriate mental health curriculum into the mandated health curriculum.
 - **Chokehold Ban** will ban the use of carotid holds and tracheal holds, as well as any restraint that impedes a person's breathing or circulation in a way that could produce a loss of consciousness.
- I believe these bills represent crucial steps forward for our state. I will continue to provide updates on these and other legislative efforts as the session begins.
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day is January 20th. This is a day to remember and commemorate the life and work he did. It is a day to reflect on the systemic injustices, and principles of racial equality. Let's consider Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a "day on," focusing on actions that contribute positively to society, rather than just a day off.

Happy New Year!

Always representing your interests!



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