

**Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes**  
**Midtown Community Council**  
**April 9, 2025**

**Education Funding: A Legislative Priority**

- Increasing the **Base Student Allocation (BSA)** is a priority in both the Senate and the House Majority Caucuses.
- **HB 69**, a bill which raises the Base Student Allocation, also known as the BSA, passed the House and is now being considered in the Senate Education Committee, to the Senate Finance Committee and then to the Senate floor for a vote.

**Legislative Updates: Progress on Key Bills**

- **SB8 (Education for Deaf and Hearing Impaired)** had its first bill hearing in the Senate Education Committee. I'm looking forward to seeing this bill advance through the committee process and make it to the floor for a vote then off to the House.
- **SB20 (CPR Curriculum)** had its first hearing in the Senate Education Committee. The bill was suggested by a Fire Captain Jason Dolph who is also the Anchorage Fire Department's Safety Officer. The bill has broad support throughout the Department, and the Heart and Vascular Institute at Providence. I look forward to seeing CPR training in our schools.
- **SB120 (Climate Change Commission)** is currently in Senate Finance, waiting for its first hearing after being voted out of the Senate State Affairs Committee last week.
- **SJR 8 (International Relations with Taiwan)** was heard in Senate Resources Committee and will be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee after it moves out of Resources. This Bill highlights the strong relationship between Alaska and Taiwan. Alaska formerly had a Trade Office in Taiwan for several years and the Bill also requests that the Trade Office be reinstated.
- **Other Updates** - SB 43: Women's History Month, passed the House Floor on 3/28/25, and is on its way to the Governor's office. I look forward to this bill being signed into law, and for the month of March to be established in state statutes as a month to remember and honor the contributions Alaskan Women.

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**Events in April to Watch Out For**

- **The Empty Bowl Project, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 11:30am-1:00pm at the Dena'ina Convention Center in Downtown Anchorage.** The Empty Bowl Project is a grassroots initiative aimed at raising awareness and funds to combat hunger. For more than 25 years, this event has brought together more than 1,400 Alaskans who come to enjoy soup and cornbread prepared by the chefs and clients at Bean's Café, hand crafted bowls donated by the community, a silent auction, and most importantly learning about the mission of deeding our hungry population in Anchorage. Contributions ensure that every dollar donated through ticket sales, silent auction, and merchandise sales, goes directly to feeding those most in need.
- **NYO Games – Native Youth Olympic Games**, from April 24<sup>th</sup> to April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at the Alaska Airlines Center on UAA's Campus. During the April competition, the statewide Senior Games will host athletes from across the state in the age bracket of 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade, with the maximum athlete age of nineteen. These games Native Olympic Games are a great reminder about the traditions of our beautiful state and the culture that is represented in the NYO Games, each year in Alaska.

**Engaging with Advocates & Organizations**

- The session is one of the busiest times of the year for any office. In addition to committees and bill hearings, I meet with stakeholder groups from across the state.
- **Alaska Deaf Council, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and Alaska Early Childhood Advocacy Group** are just a few of the meetings I have had over the past few weeks.
- These discussions are **critical to shaping policy and ensuring that legislation reflects community needs.**

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**Commitment to Alaskans**

- As always, I'm honored to be back in **Juneau, working diligently representing my constituents and all Alaskans** throughout the State.
- Looking forward to continuing to have a productive session focused on **education, public safety, a balanced budget, and community engagement.**
- **Alaskans' voices matter—stay informed and engaged in the process!**

Your input and engagement are vital to the legislative process. Please feel free to call in and testify in support of my bills and other bills offered by the Legislature.

*Always representing your interests!*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elvi Gray-Jackson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elvi" being more prominent and stylized.

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