

## Alaska State Legislature

Office of Senator Löki Gale Tobin

## Session Update

Today, the Senate Finance Committee heard public testimony on the budget for the Southcentral region. Members heard from constituents on the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Operating, Capital, and Mental Health budgets from 1-2:45pm. I understand that this time is a bit inaccessible for those working during the day, so please submit written testimony to finance.committee@akleg.gov if you weren't able to join.

## Personal Legislation

This was a busy week for our office. On Monday, Senate Bill 60, an act to recognize Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome passed the Senate! This bill, brought to us by a constituent, recognizes the impact of ME/CFS on our neighbors and brings awareness to accurate diagnoses. Also on Monday, Senate Bill 61, an act to introduce product stewardship for electronic devices sold in Alaska, was moved out of the Senate Resources Committee, and it will move on to the Senate Finance Committee. In Senate State Affairs, my staff presented Senate Joint Resolution 6 which supports the creation of a new state of the US for the residents of Washington DC to ensure their fair representation in Congress. Yesterday in Senate Education, we presented Senate Bill 93. This is my bill to turbocharge pre-K by removing barriers in state law that are preventing the expansion of state-funded pre-K across the state. Today, my staff and I presented Senate Bill 89 to modernize the statutes governing physician assistants in Alaska in Senate Health and Social Services.

## **Constituent Engagement Opportunities**

Thank you to everyone who has reached out to our office to provide feedback and support! It helps my office stay in touch with our district while we're down in Juncau. I will be hosting a *Loop in with Löki* on March 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:45-6:45pm via Zoom. The Anchorage Delegation of legislators will be hosting a citywide town hall on April 5<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm at the UAA Cuddy Hall. If none of these times are accessible to you, please feel free to email or call my office. I also have regular call time on my schedule to connect with constituents and answer any questions you may have.

Sign up for my legislative newsletter at lgtobin.substack.com to stay up to date on what is happening in Juneau and take our constituent survey! You have until this Friday, February 28th to provide feedback. The next episode of The Empty Office Podcast we released on Sunday, March 2, features our first three-time guest, Senator Scott Kawasaki.

