

February 13, 2025

The Honorable Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Room 30  
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: Support for Senate Bill 43 – Establishing Women's History Month

Dear Senator Gray-Jackson:

I am writing to express my full support for Senate Bill 43, which seeks to establish March as Women's History Month in the State of Alaska.

As a mother, business leader, advocate, and community activist, I deeply appreciate the importance of recognizing the contributions of women in shaping our state's history and future.

Women have always carried an extraordinary weight—balancing careers, families, leadership, and advocacy—often all at once. Throughout history, we have led movements, built businesses, nurtured communities, and raised the next generation, all while pushing forward against systemic barriers. The boundless strength of women is evident in every sector of society, from government offices to boardrooms, from community organizations to households.

Establishing Women's History Month in Alaska is more than a symbolic gesture—it is a commitment to honoring the legacy of the women who came before us and to empowering young women and girls to pursue their fullest potential. Representation matters, and when young girls see women leading in business, government, and community service, they learn that their voices matter and their dreams are possible.

For example, Senator Gray-Jackson, you are an inspiration to me. In Alaska, we have witnessed significant progress in women's representation. During this current legislative session, for the first time, women will hold a majority in the Alaska House of Representatives, with 21 out of 40 seats. This brings the total number of female lawmakers to 26, accounting for 43% of the entire Legislature—a record high for our state. Reflecting on the past, this representation highlights the strides we have made toward gender parity in political representation.

This bill provides an opportunity to uplift those stories, to celebrate the strength and achievements of women across all industries, and to foster a culture where future generations of women can thrive. I deeply appreciate your leadership in bringing this forward, and I urge the Legislature to pass SB 43 in recognition of the invaluable contributions women have made to Alaska and the United States.

I am honored to be able to provide this support and available to your office if I can help in any way.

Most Sincerely,  
Lacy Wilcox Juneau, Alaska



YWCA Alaska 3400 Spenard Road,  
Suite 211 Anchorage, AK 99501  
Office: 907.644.9600  
Email: [ywcaoffice@ywcaak.org](mailto:ywcaoffice@ywcaak.org)

Dear 34<sup>th</sup> Alaska State Legislature,

YWCA Alaska has a long history of supporting Women leaders in our community. Since 1990, we have honored women and allies at an annual celebration, sharing their successes, and uplifting them through our Women of Achievement event. This long-standing tradition has recognized over 350 women, all of whom have left indelible marks on Alaska's history. We are forever grateful for the paths they walked and paved, so that younger generations of women know that they too can be a doctor, lawyer, community advocate, and more.

We are delighted to hear that Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson and her office are proposing SB43: An Act establishing the month of March as Women's History Month." We fully support this bill and her efforts, especially in these trying times when public support like this is so desperately needed. Over 60% of women 16 and older are in Alaska's workforce, from STEM fields to the medical field, small business owners to industry leaders. Women make up almost half of Alaska's workforce at 45.2%. Despite the near 50/50 split, women are still paid only 80.5% of men in the same position. While this has trended upward, it is still a noticeable gap.

Despite this, women persist and celebrating them in the month of March just makes sense. From our own pioneers like Elizabeth Peratrovich to our friends in the 34<sup>th</sup> Alaska State Legislature - Senate like Elvi Gray-Jackson, Loki Gale-Tobin, Cathy Giessel, Shelley Hughes, Kelly Merrick, and all our friends in the House of Representatives, these women have continued to pave the path that their predecessors started and to ensure it's there for women leaders to come.

YWCA Alaska stands with Senator Gray-Jackson, and all women in Alaska, and fully support this bill.

Thank you,  
Jessie Lavoie  
YWCA Alaska, CEO  
907-644-9600, Option 4  
[jlavoie@ywcaak.org](mailto:jlavoie@ywcaak.org)

Dear Senator Gray-Jackson,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 43, which seeks to designate March as Women's History Month in Alaska. Recognizing this month formally would be a meaningful step in honoring the invaluable contributions women have made - and continue to make - to our state's history, culture, and progress.

Alaska has a rich history of trailblazing women who have shaped our communities through leadership, advocacy, and perseverance. By designating March as Women's History Month, we can ensure their achievements are acknowledged and celebrated, inspiring future generations to continue breaking barriers.

I urge support of this important legislation and help elevate the stories of the women who have contributed to Alaska's growth and resilience. Thank you.

Kindest regards,

Angela Rodell  
Juneau, Alaska

February 18, 2025

The Honorable Elvi Gray-Jackson  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

**Subject: Support for SB 43 – Establishing March as Women’s History Month in Alaska**

Dear Senator Gray-Jackson,

When I was in first grade, I was cast as the dentist in our school play “Tilly the Tooth.” I was over the moon. I had a couple of lines to memorize, and I got to wear a white coat. During my annual trip to the dentist, I proudly announced that I’d be playing a dentist in our school play, and he said— “a girl?”— and my excitement came crashing to a halt.

He was right! The only dentists I’d ever seen were men. Why hadn’t I realized that my being cast as a dentist in the school play was a Humiliating mistake? Only men could be dentists. I went home, sat on my Care Bear-covered bedspread, and sobbed. When I asked the teacher if I could be re-cast, she reassured me that it was okay for a girl to be a dentist, but I didn’t believe her. All the evidence pointed to the fact that I should have been cast as something more appropriate to my gender – a vegetable, fruit, or a piece of candy.

Now that I’m older, I realize my dentist’s comment was highly inappropriate. While he guided my young oral hygiene to adulthood sans cavities, he could have easily crushed my dreams of pursuing a career in his chosen field if that had been my dream.

Women’s History Month ensures that little girls of the future are given real examples of women who are doing a great job in every field—astronauts, CEOs, dentists, state legislators, supreme court justices, and maybe even one day President. It acknowledges that while we may make up for half of the population, there still isn’t parity in representation in many fields of expertise or leadership, so we need to lift up those many successes that do exist. Then, when a little girl, or a young woman, a woman at the height of a career sees an opportunity to step up and lead, she can ignore all of those voices that are still out there asking: “a girl?”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amber Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Amber Lee



**Alaska Women Ascend**

9900 Basher Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99507

February 18, 2025

The Honorable Elvi Gray-Jackson Alaska  
State Legislature  
State Capitol Building Juneau,  
AK 99801

**Subject: Support for SB 43 – Establishing March as Women’s History Month in Alaska**

Dear Senator Gray-Jackson,

On behalf of Alaska Women Ascend, I am writing to express our strong support for SB 43. This important legislation recognizes March as Women’s History Month in Alaska, reinforcing our commitment to honoring the remarkable contributions of women to our state and national history.

For nearly a decade, Alaska Women Ascend has trained women across the state to run for public office, effectively support candidates and issues, and take on a variety of leadership roles in civic and advocacy positions. One thing we know is that having visible examples of women in leadership inspires young women to see themselves in those roles—an essential first step in empowering them to step up and lead.

By formally designating March as Women’s History Month through SB 43, Alaska acknowledges and celebrates these achievements, ensuring that their contributions are not forgotten but serve as inspiration for future generations. Recognizing these contributions is not just about honoring the past—it is about shaping the future. By amplifying the stories of women who have broken barriers and led the way, we create a powerful message that leadership is for everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Alaska Women Ascend stands ready to support this effort in any way we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kay", written in a cursive style.

**Kay Brown**

Chair, Alaska Women Ascend

February 26, 2025  
The Honorable Elvi Gray-Jackson  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Building Juneau,  
AK 99801

Subject: Support for SB 43 – Establishing March as Women’s History Month in Alaska

Dear Senator Gray-Jackson,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for SB 43. By recognizing March as Women’s History Month, we honor the work and contributions of Alaskan Women from all walks of life.

It would be very fitting for this legislation to be passed during the 34th legislature, where we have a record number of women serving our state.

Our legislature has been home to so many phenomenal leaders who achieved milestones not just for our state, but for the country as a whole.

Representative Nell Scott became the first female member of our territorial legislature in 1937 after piloting her plane campaigning for votes in a district that included the Copper River valley, Bristol Bay, and the Aleutian Islands. Representative Thelma Buckholt was the first Filipina legislator in the United States and the first Asian American to lead the National Order of Women Legislators. Representative Ramona Barnes was the first female speaker of the state house and one of the first female house speakers in the nation. Senator Murkowski began her career in public service as a legislator and became our first female senator. Myself, I am honored to have served as a state legislator and to have been the first woman to represent Alaska in the US House. And, of course, Senator Gray-Jackson, you have been an incredible inspiration to all of us, leading on many of the most important challenges facing the state.

By recognizing Women’s History Month, we make it clear to women, especially young women and girls, that they should not be afraid to be the bold leaders Alaska needs to guide us into the future. We also honor the trailblazers who came before us, displayed remarkable leadership, and now serve as role models for our generation and the next.

By passing this bill, we commit to building on what has come before us for the benefit of all Alaskans today and tomorrow.

Thank you,

Congresswoman Mary Peltola

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary", with a stylized, flowing script.