

From: [Susan A](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: SB 43
Date: Thursday, March 6, 2025 1:41:55 PM

Public Testimony in Support of SB 43: Establishing March as Women's History Month

To the Honorable Members of the Alaska State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 43, which seeks to establish the month of March as Women's History Month in the State of Alaska. This bill represents a meaningful opportunity to recognize and celebrate the invaluable contributions of women in shaping the history, culture, and development of both Alaska and the United States.

1. Recognition of Women's Contributions

The establishment of Women's History Month will provide an annual platform to acknowledge the often overlooked or undervalued contributions of Alaskan women in various fields, including politics, science, arts, education, business, medicine, and activism. Throughout history, women have been essential in advancing the social, economic, and cultural fabric of our communities.

By officially recognizing March as Women's History Month, we will ensure that future generations understand the critical roles that women have played in Alaska's progress and development, both historically and in the present day. It is crucial that we remember and honor the achievements of women, especially Alaska Native women, who have shaped our communities in profound ways.

2. Promoting Equality and Empowerment

Designating March as Women's History Month is a step toward gender equity and ensuring that women's voices are heard and respected in all aspects of society. It provides an opportunity for both men and women, particularly young people, to learn about the pivotal role women have played in shaping the modern world and to understand the challenges they continue to face. This month will serve as a reminder of the ongoing work for equality and the importance of supporting gender diversity in leadership positions.

In a state like Alaska, where women are instrumental in both urban and rural communities, this bill provides a chance to highlight local women's achievements, raise awareness about issues such as domestic violence, healthcare access, education, and economic equality, and encourage future leaders—especially women and girls—to pursue their goals, empowered by the knowledge of the successes and perseverance of those who came before them.

3. Celebrating Alaska's Unique History

Alaska's history is rich with the stories of strong, resilient women, particularly Alaska Native women, who have faced immense challenges while preserving their culture and fostering community development. Establishing Women's History Month is a way to elevate the stories of Alaska Native women and their contributions to the state's growth, heritage, and culture.

From the role of women in subsistence activities to their leadership in local and state politics, Alaska's women have been central to building a strong, resilient state. Women like Viola O'Leary, an advocate for Alaska Native rights, and Elizabeth Peratrovich, whose activism led to the passing of the Anti-Discrimination Act in Alaska, have paved the way for equal treatment and opportunity for all Alaskans.

4. Educational and Community Benefits

This bill will also provide valuable educational opportunities for students, educators, and community groups across the state. It offers a unique chance to organize activities, lectures, panels, and events that can engage the public in discussions about the achievements and struggles of women throughout history. Such initiatives foster an environment where young Alaskans can look up to women leaders and role models in all fields.

By including schools, community groups, and public and private agencies in the observance of Women's History Month, we empower individuals and organizations to actively participate in the recognition and honoring of women's contributions, strengthening our collective identity as a state committed to progress, equality, and inclusivity.

5. Aligning with National Efforts

The establishment of Women's History Month in Alaska aligns with the national recognition of Women's History Month, celebrated each March across the United States. By joining this movement, Alaska will contribute to the larger effort to educate and raise awareness about the historical contributions of women, helping to integrate these important lessons into the fabric of American history, both for the current generation and for future generations.

In conclusion, Senate Bill 43 is a crucial step toward honoring the achievements of women, promoting gender equity, and providing an opportunity to recognize the critical contributions of Alaska's women to the state's cultural, economic, and political life. I strongly urge the members of the Alaska State Legislature to pass this bill and officially establish March as Women's History Month, thereby affirming Alaska's commitment to equality, empowerment, and recognition of all individuals who have contributed to our state's success.

I would like to suggest sending forward a memorandum to the US caucus expressing the problems with the SAVE Act for women especially. Approximately 21.3 million Americans lack immediate access to a birth certificate or passport, documents mandated under the SAVE Act. Married women are particularly vulnerable, as name changes upon marriage often lead to discrepancies in official records, potentially hindering their ability to vote (Glamor 2025) Women are not the only group affected by this bill, but pertaining to this bill it is relevant.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Susan Allmeroth
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Myself

References

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on education. Retrieved from <https://www.aauw.org>

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