

Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson
Alaska State Senate
Alaska State Capitol, Room 30
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Gray-Jackson,

My name is Evelyn Pelayo Abello. I immigrated from the Philippines in 1976 and have resided in Anchorage, Alaska since that year.

As a retired civil rights enforcement officer with the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights, a retired Clinical Mental Health Therapist for Southcentral Foundation's Dena A Coy Program, a life member of the Filipino Community of Anchorage, and as the newly appointed Philippine Honorary Consul in Alaska, I'm writing to express my strong support of SB 6. I believe that Alaskan students would greatly benefit from receiving education on the history and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) to our great State.

Statistics show that AAPIs are the fastest-growing racial/ethnic group in Alaska and make up a significant portion of the State's population. They have been in Alaska since the 1700s and have made significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, and social growth of our State. However, their history and their contributions are largely unknown. These days, Alaskans may interact with AAPIs as their medical doctors, college professors, teachers, guidance counselors, church pastors/ministers, nurses, physical therapists, legislator, legislative aide, clinical therapist, caregiver, accountant, driver, seafood processor, engineer, architect, carpenter, journalist, salesclerk, healthcare provider, cab driver, federal/state/city/municipal civil service provider, IT consultant, chef, restaurant server, physical therapist, barber/hairdresser, and many other professional and service providers. Although they live and work and thrive in communities throughout Alaska, AAPIs are mostly invisible in the eyes of many Alaskans. I believe SB 6, is the catalyst that would change this status quo. If this bill becomes law, Alaskan students of this and future generations will learn about and be inspired by the history, contributions and sacrifices that AAPIs have made to make Alaska the great State that it is today.

If you have any questions or need clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me. My contact information is below.

Sincerely,

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