

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 that reads "Mary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping tail.