

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES
STANDING COMMITTEE**

April 20, 2004
3:22 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Peggy Wilson, Chair
Representative Carl Gatto, Vice Chair
Representative John Coghill
Representative Paul Seaton
Representative Kelly Wolf
Representative Sharon Cissna

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Mary Kapsner

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

PRESENTATION BY FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES TASK FORCE

TAPES

04-35, SIDE(S) A & B

CHAIR PEGGY WILSON convened the meeting of the House Health, Education and Social Services Standing Committee at 3:22 p.m. Representatives Wilson, Coghill, Cissna, Gatto, Seaton, and Wolf were present.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR LOREN LEMAN provided a general introduction and overview of the Faith-Based and Community Initiative Task Force. He described the composition of the task force, and also what the task force has been doing to date. Lieutenant Governor Lemman introduced Scott Merriner, Chairman of the Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Task Force and resident of Anchorage.

SCOTT MERRINER, Chairman, Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Task Force, took questions from the committee and then discussed briefly the legality of the task force, and how the task force does not violate the separation of church and state. He further described how the relevant law has been changing in favor of organizations like the task force in recent years. Mr. Merriner

discussed how the task force has been working and where it would like to go in the future. He gave examples of how the members of the task force are able to provide services that the government could provide, but which the task force members are able to provide cheaper and with a higher level of personal service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

COMMITTEE ACTION

The committee took no action.

ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: The meeting was recorded and handwritten log notes were taken. A copy of the tape(s) and log notes may be obtained by contacting the House Records Office at State Capitol, Room 3, Juneau, Alaska 99801 (mailing address), (907) 465-2214, and after adjournment of the second session of the Twenty-Third Alaska State Legislature this information may be obtained by contacting the Legislative Reference Library at (907) 465-3808.