

HB

4



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House

P.O. BOX V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

March 24, 1987

Esther K. Epperly
Box 34358
Juneau, AK 99803

Dear Ms. Epperly:

I received your letter on House Bill 4, the Alaska Women's Commission. The bill passed the House 32 to 1 (7 excused).

I supported the bill for several reasons, including the following:

1. The Commission has produced some excellent reports which have led to positive changes for women in the State of Alaska;
2. No other entity in the State has the responsibility to review and analyze the impact of programs and policies on women and children (this is not the equivalent of the Equal Opportunity Office or the Human Rights Commission); and
3. There is more work to be done to help women achieve full opportunity in our society.

As Chair of the State Affairs Committee, I held a statewide teleconference on this subject. The testimony was approximately 5 to 1 in support of House Bill 4, including that given here in Juneau. A few people expressed the opinion that money should be spent on something else. Well, the bill passed with a zero fiscal note which means that there would be no funding for next year unless it is added later in the budget. Governor Cowper's budget does include money for the Commission; it remains to be seen, however, what the Finance Committees will recommend and what the Legislature will adopt.

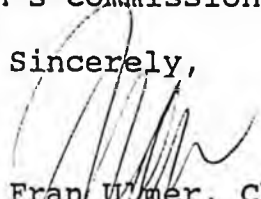
March 24, 1987

Other people who testified expressed the opinion that the current members of the Commission are biased or single interest. I cannot pass judgment on that as I've never personally observed their meetings. However, that does not justify eliminating the Commission; it might justify requesting that the Governor appoint different people with broader or fairer perspectives. Just because one doesn't like the decisions or opinions of the Board of Fisheries does not support the conclusion that the Board should be abolished.

Moreover, the Commission isn't there to "represent the majority of Alaskan women". It's there to work for issues of concern to women and children in Alaska -- some of them will be for you, or for me, or for someone you don't know, but overall, all of us will be benefitted in the long term.

In closing, I'd like to share with you the testimony of one man who spoke before the State Affairs Committee in support of House Bill 4: "When half the Supreme Court, half the Legislature, and half the Commissioners are women, it might be time to abolish the Alaska Women's Commission."

Sincerely,



Fran Ulmer, Chair
State Affairs Committee

HB 4

RECEIVED MAR 17 1987

March 12, 1987

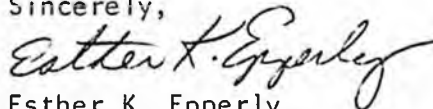
Representative Fran Ulmer
House of Representatives
Box V
Juneau, Ak. 99811

Dear Representative Ulmer:

How can you justify sponsoring HB4? We do not need to waste 250,000.00 to 300,000.00 on the Alaska Womens Commission. I feel that this commission duplicates services already provided by other State Agencies and Private Organizations. During this time of being on a tight budget the State Government and you must realize that this Commission is a frill we can live without.

Thankyou for this consideration.

Sincerely,



Esther K. Epperly,
Box 34358
Juneau, Ak. 99803

eke
enc

PLEASE RECONSIDER AND VOTE AGAINST HB4!!!!!!!!!!

If you are interested in knowing some of the legislative history of this organization, information follows.

The Alaska Women's Commission was created in 1978 and is a 10 member commission that focuses on

1. education
2. homemaking
3. civil and legal rights
4. labor and employment

They submit legislative recommendations to the Governor and present seminars and conferences throughout the state.

This commission extensively promotes their agenda which includes:

(1) publishing studies, advice and guides. Views of the traditional woman are difficult to find. Ex. agenda of 1983 Anchorage conference which states "how wonderful it is to see so many lesbian women participating"

(2) recommending legislation and action that is antithetical to the free enterprise system, costly to implement and deleterious to the family: examples:

(a) child care centers in buildings: costly to the builder. They seem so convenient to the parent but instead don't they take away parents' responsibilities to search for and track competent help and put these parents' responsibilities on the builder and the state?

(b) parenting leave : is this taxpayer funded babysitting?

(c) non-gender insurance: raising premium rates of women who are the safest drivers, trying to make rates equal when performance is not.


(d) comparable worth, pay equity, creating chaos in the free enterprise system which has made us the greatest country in the world by removing job classification and pay system from the competitive market, to a system that is based on subjective opinions. This system once implemented would set in place an inflexible salary schedule that would not reflect the market condition.

(e) lesbian and gay rights, ignoring the rights of the community to be free from the communicable diseases that this type of activity results in, and ignores the rights of parents to protect their children. Homosexuals do not procreate, they use our children for their pleasure.

(f) a widespread network of abortion services, especially in rural areas. No consideration given to the many women mentally and emotionally harmed. Also, pregnancy support services was zeroed out of this budget, meaning that the legislators would be in the position of supporting abortion advocacy groups, but not supporting groups which support women in crisis who want to keep their babies.

(k) no-fault divorce laws that created poverty for women allowing men to forgo their responsibilities to family, and resulted in the feminists then trying to get the state to condone comparable worth and many state welfare programs to help the woman support herself and her family. Now they want to go back in and clear up this problem in their divorce and dissolution bills, but they do not do away with all the other costly bills demanding state aid and welfare and support.

(3) Manipulating of Sitka Conference, 1986 with suspension of rules in order to achieve a skewed recommendation consensus. (a minority report was written and delivered.)


JUNEAU COMMUNITY INFORMATION LEAGUE
P.O. Box 211173 • JUNEAU, ALASKA 99821

BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
PAID
JUNEAU, AK 99801
Permit #64

Address Return Requested

Gordon Epperly
P.O. Box 326
Juneau, Ak 99802



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House

P.O. BOX V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

April 21, 1987

Georgia Sepel
10901 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Ms. Sepel:

I received your public opinion message on House Bill 4, the Alaska Women's Commission. The bill passed the House 32 to 1 (7 excused).

I supported the bill for several reasons, including the following:

1. The Commission has produced some excellent reports which have led to positive changes for women in the State of Alaska;
2. No other entity in the State has the responsibility to review and analyze the impact of programs and policies on women and children (this is not the equivalent of the Equal Opportunity Office or the Human Rights Commission); and
3. There is more work to be done to help women achieve full opportunity in our society.

As Chair of the State Affairs Committee, I held a statewide teleconference on this subject. The testimony was approximately 5 to 1 in support of House Bill 4, including that given here in Juneau. A few people expressed the opinion that money should be spent on something else. Well, the bill passed with a zero fiscal note which means that there would be no funding for next year unless it is added later in the budget. Governor Cowper's budget does include money for the Commission; it remains to be seen, however, what the Finance Committees will recommend and what the Legislature will adopt.

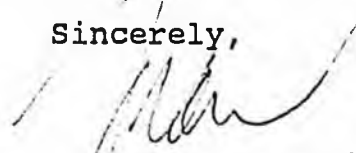
April 21, 1987

Other people who testified expressed the opinion that the current members of the Commission are biased or single interest. I cannot pass judgment on that as I've never personally observed their meetings. However, that does not justify eliminating the Commission; it might justify requesting that the Governor appoint different people with broader or fairer perspectives. Just because one doesn't like the decisions or opinions of the Board of Fisheries does not support the conclusion that the Board should be abolished.

Moreover, the Commission isn't there to "represent the majority of Alaskan women". It's there to work for issues of concern to women and children in Alaska -- some of them will be for you, or for me, or for someone you don't know, but overall, all of us will be benefitted in the long term.

In closing, I'd like to share with you the testimony of one man who spoke before the State Affairs Committee in support of House Bill 4: "When half the Supreme Court, half the Legislature, and half the Commissioners are women, it might be time to abolish the Alaska Women's Commission."

Sincerely,



Fran Ulmer, Chair
State Affairs Committee

HB 4

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE ULMER

NAME: GEORGIA SEPEL

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 10901 MENDENHALL LOOP RD

CITY: JUNEAU, AK

ZIP: 99801

PHONE: 789-5220

BILL NO: HB 4

SUBJECT: EXTENDING ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION

MESSAGE: DEAR FRAN, IT IS MY OPINION THAT WE SHOULD NOT EXTEND THE HB4 FOR CONTINUATION OF THE ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION.

POMID: 00101340

DATE: 04/15/87

TIME: 10:13:40

LIONAME: JUNEAU LIO

*Yes better
from better*

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE ULMER

NAME: CAROL HABEGER
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 4942 STEELHEAD STREET
CITY: JUNEAU, AK.
PHONE: 789-3570
BILL NO: HB 4

ZIP: 99801

SUBJECT: EXTENDING ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION
MESSAGE: I URGE YOU TO VOTE AGAINST EXTENDING THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION. I FEEL THE COMMISSION DOES NOT FAIRLY REPRESENT WOMEN IN OUR STATE.

POMID: 00115606
DATE: 04/15/87
TIME: 11:56:06
LIONAME: JUNEAU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVE SENATORS

HUDSON

DUNCAN
ABOOD
FAIKS
HENSLEY
JOSEPHSON
UEHLING

letter

Introduced: 1/19/87
Referred: State Affairs and
Finance

BY DAVIS, ULMER, KOPONEN
AND ELLIS

1 IN THE HOUSE

HOUSE BILL NO. 4

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to extending the termination date of
7 the Alaska Women's Commission; and providing for an
8 effective date."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. AS 44.66.010(a)(12) is amended to read:

11 (12) Alaska Women's Commission -- June 30, 1991 [1987].

12 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

*MARTIN
90 > AMENDMENT*

Alaska State Legislature

Committees:

Chair-State Affairs
V. Chair-Judiciary
Telecommunications
Special Ethics
Legislative Council
Finance Subcommittee
for the University of Alaska
Joint Committee
on Economic Recovery



P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-4947

REPRESENTATIVE FRAN ULMER

May 2, 1988

Judy Fulp
Box 2306
Kodiak, AK 99615

Dear Judy:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your eloquent plea for continuation of the Alaska Women's Commission. Senator Fischer does not realize the broad spectrum of support for the Commission and he needs to hear from people like you.

You have my best wishes in your work with the Kodiak Area Native Association.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fran Ulmer".

Fran Ulmer
Representative

District 4B — Juneau

APRIL 27, 1988

SENATOR PAUL FISCHER
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX V (MS 3100)
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

Judy Sulp
Box 306
Juneau, AK
99801

Dear Senator Paul Fischer,

I write to you with a request to let the Women's Commission Bill out of committee to be voted on by the Senate.

I am not a radical feminist, don't even consider myself a feminist--just one who cares about the poor. I went to Guatemala in 1980 to hear Mother Teresa speak and I applaud efforts by such people around the world.

I believe that women and children are now becoming our nation's poor. Through the "feminization of poverty" due to divorce, low pay for women, small opportunities in the higher paying jobs and not enough education, women and their dependents are filling the ranks of the poor in our country. Eventually all will suffer from this situation, since women are children's mothers and those children are both male and female.

Although not a feminist, I am a democrat and a catholic. I would have been very "turned-off" if the Women's Commission seemed radical or fixated on one or two negative issues. But, they aren't!! They are most creative, positive and productive.

I first came into contact with them when I read a book they produced called **"Profiles in Change: Names, Notes and Quotes for Alaskan Women"**. Please, look at this book before you decide to hold that bill in committee. It is wonderful! It preserves and highlights quotes and photos of some special Alaskan women, including our wonderful Senator Arliss Sturgulewski.

Recently, in November 1987, I (the mother of six children--three of whom are girls) decided to work full time for pay. I was hired by the Kodiak Area Native Association under a federal grant (there were approximately 30 throughout the nation and our grant has been called a model program out of these grants) funded by the Department of Education through the Women's Educational Equity Act. That's the Title IX that allows girls and women equality in education (from sports to admittance to schools).

One of the parts of my grant was to put on an island-wide women's conference. We did this March 25, 26, and 27. It turned out great.

Chris Callahan, Director of the Alaska Women's Commission, slowly became one of my main contacts and supporters for the conference. This happened very informally, through her phone calls and kindness. Finally, when one key note speaker (Helen Finney) could not make it, I asked Chris to open the conference with a key note address. She agreed, although she was in the midst of trying to save her job.

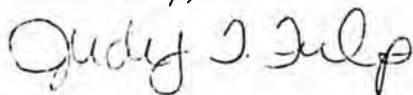
Her talk and presence were very inspiring and I feel privileged to have had her at our conference. She and Arliss and Magda Raupp, from Washington D.C., all did a fine job.

Please consider my plea. I have appreciated the work of the Alaska Women's Commission, especially Chris Callahan's work. She is so special and a very beautiful person, intelligent and gentle. It would be a great loss to our state to do away with such a creative force for the women and children of Alaska.

Alaska has been in the forefront on women's rights; go back and see when the vote was given to women in our State compared to other parts of the country. Things are good for Alaskan women, in general, and I think this is do in part to the ten years of service by the Alaska Women's Commission.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



Judy T. Fulp

c.c. Alaskan Legislators

STEVE COWPER
GOVERNOR



PHONE
(907) 561-4227

STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION

3601 C STREET - SUITE 742
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503

April 7, 1987

Representative Fran Ulmer
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Ulmer:

On behalf of the Alaska Women's Commission I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your co-sponsorship of HB4, the bill extending the Alaska Women's Commission.

As you know the bill has not yet had its first hearing in Senate State Affairs. We appreciate your continued support and any efforts you can make in urging Senator Abood to move the bill.

I have enclosed two recent articles on the Commission for your information.

Sincerely,

Kris Chatfield

Kris Chatfield
Chair



Times photo by Alice Puster

Chris Callahan has been named director of the Alaska Women's Commission.

Women's group

Continued from page D-1

proposed to Alaska's lawmakers would encourage judges and divorce masters to give more scrutiny to proposed settlements to ensure equity, and would identify career assets as part of a marital estate. The legislation also would clarify that judges could order spousal support during divorce proceedings, an important item for older women with no job skills who have devoted their lives to their families.

The commission's study of divorce and dissolution in Alaska won't be finished until June, but "from the national survey and the review of state statutes, we see the need for reform already," Callahan says. "This legislation is probably not everything we need, but we hope the bill will provide some additional help for groups that are especially vulnerable."

More legal changes may be recommended after the research is complete, she adds.

Through its commissioners, the Women's Commission is also involved in projects such as establishing regional women's councils, working with the state Child Support Enforcement Task Force, and co-sponsoring this month's Female Minority Leadership Conference with the Anchorage School District.

Callahan's hopes for the future of the commission include a closer look at issues relating to young women, to teen-ager pregnancy and women's health care. "We've had good communication with the native women of Alaska, but I'd like to see us work more closely," she continues.

The commission's focus, the new director adds, exists because women, minorities and children have suffered at the hands of society for centuries.

"What the commission is all about is trying to make the world a better place."

The Alaska Women's Commission has a new director, a fistful of new projects -- and is looking for a new lease on life.

By a 33-2 vote earlier this month, the State House approved a bill, extending the commission's existence through 1991. Now the bill moves to the state Senate, where funding for the commission faced stiff opposition last year but was finally approved at a reduced level.

Without the legislature's blessing, the commission will be forced to wind down operations and close its doors in 1988. But Chris Callahan, who was named director in September, doesn't foresee that.

"Alaskan policymakers and Alaskan people in general have always been very supportive of equity," she says. "We've had a comparable worth law on the books since the '50s, and we were one of the first states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment and to have our own state ERA. The commitment has always been there, and I think it will continue."

Callahan is the commission's third director, following Rep. Katie Hurlley and Kathy Marshall. The commission itself began in 1978 as "a research and advocacy agency established to help women economically, socially, educationally, legally -- in any area where the commission has determined there is an inequity or discrepancy," Callahan says. "We do research and compile information to tell us what women's status is, and based on that, to

advocate for improvements and educate women as well as policy-makers."

Ten commissioners represent Alaskans of all geographic, ethnic, occupational and political groups. Commissioners, staff and volunteers have worked on projects ranging from the economic status of native women to sex discrimination in state statutes, from child care directories to a bibliography on Alaskan women, from women in public office to women in prisons to women in construction.

Callahan says she welcomes the current review of the commission's work.

"I'm so proud of what this organization has done," she says. "I think this is a tremendous opportunity to say, 'You bet we're effective.' Just look at what we've been able to produce with a very modest amount of dollars."

Gov. Steve Cowper has recommended the commission's funding continue at its current level of \$251,500, which is about 30 percent below the commission's fiscal 1982 budget, Callahan says. Another \$11,000 in federal funds is available to staff a part-time senior employee; that money runs out June 30.

The proposed state funds "represent less than \$1 for every female in the state of Alaska," Callahan says. "That investment has been paid back enormously in the work the commission has been able to do."

The commission's ability to educate and advocate is aided by the fact that it

is a small agency with dedicated defenders, she adds. "The women and men who serve as commissioners feel so strongly about the issues that we're able to utilize many more productive hours than other agencies." Volunteers provide thousands of hours of assistance in organizing seminars and conferences, Callahan says; however, surveys and research require professionals to be considered valid.

Among the commission's current projects involving volunteers and professionals is the Women's Legal Rights Conference, which the agency will help sponsor April 25 in Anchorage.

"With the state economy suffering as it is, the commission has a strong concern about how that affects people who are already marginal, who may be newly employed or able to make it only because of a variety of assistance from the state," Callahan says. The conference will offer information on legal rights, family law, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Child Support Enforcement, and other programs "that help people remain well and healthy," Callahan says.

The commission is also working with the state legislature on divorce and dissolution reform, and parental leave policy reform.

The commission initially proposed a parental leave policy of 18 weeks for state employees anticipating the birth or adoption of a child, Callahan says. However, Gov. Steve Cowper indicated he would support a bill providing

parental leave to all Alaskans employed by companies with more than 15 workers, she says. Such a bill has been introduced by Sen. Joe Josephson, Callahan says, and the governor is expected to introduce a similar bill in the House.

Although some objections have been raised, "there seems to be an enormous number of people recognizing the need to develop employment policies which match the incredible changes in the work force," Callahan says. The number of women in the labor force have increased by some 500 percent in the past 30 years, she says.

The divorce and dissolution reform supported by the commission follows on the heels of "The Divorce Revolution," a nationwide study showing that women and children show a dramatic drop in standard of living after a divorce, while men show an increase in income. The commission is currently doing similar research on a statewide level, while pushing for legislative reform.

"Women greeted changes in the divorce laws as progressive reform 10 years ago," Callahan says. "The original idea had nothing to do with economics, and more to do with emotions. The laws seemed to be adding to the stress and pain of divorce, and reformers hoped to make it as painless as possible."

An unexpected side result is the economic impact on women and children, Callahan says. The legislation

See Women's, page D-3

Anchorage Times
Anchorage, AK

MAR 24 1967

W

o

r

k

i

w

i

t

h

n

g

w

o

m

e

n



Anchorage Daily News/Bill Roth

Alaska Women's Commission director Chris Callahan sees a challenge ahead to improve the status of women in this state.

Alaska women look to brighter future

By L.J. CAMPBELL
Daily News correspondent

One tip-off that March is Women's History Month has been a series of radio and television spots called "In Celebration of Alaskan Women."

In 30 public-service announcements (PSAs), Alaska women talk about Alaska women. Truckdriver Diane Benson talks about truckdriver Rusty Dow, the first woman to drive the Alaska Highway alone. She hauled equipment for the Army during World War II.

Wilderness Society regional director Susan Alexander talks about arctic explorer Margaret Murie. Former state representative Katie Hurley talks about the women of the constitutional convention.

The 30-second profiles were produced last year by the Alaska Women's Commission with a grant from the National Bank of Alaska.

"Some of the women we profiled wouldn't have put themselves in the category of being a feminist," says Christine Callahan, the new executive director of the Alaska Women's Commission. "Others would."

"But they all have been working to accomplish their own potential and to overcome obstacles, ignorance — to change laws. Through development of their own potential, they help bring the possibility to all women."

But when Women's History Month is over and the PSAs are shelved for another year, the 10-member commission will still be grappling with serious problems facing women in Alaska.

Money is one of the biggest issues facing women in this decade, Callahan says.

"What we're talking about,

what it all comes down to, is the economic status that women have and the economic status they can look forward to having," she said.

In the last decade, the number of women in the work force has increased 17.2 percent. Yet women working full-time earn only 58 cents for every dollar earned by a man, according to the commission's most current figures from a 1984 report on the status of women in Alaska. Nationally, women earn about 54 cents for every dollar earned by a man.

There are also more working mothers in Alaska than anywhere else in the country. A quarter of the state's families headed by women live in poverty.

"Unless there are some major changes in public policy, the trend will result in a tremendous proportion of the poor at the end of the century being comprised almost entirely of women and children," Callahan said.

She says there have been some improvements in conditions for women in Alaska in the past decade. In 1985, 30 percent of the professional and managerial positions were held by women. Nationally, that figure is only 22.5 percent. Employment of minority women has also slowly increased — 1.5 percent in the last six years.

However, Callahan fears the state's slumping economy threatens to undercut women and slow future gains.

Women frequently hold the types of jobs that are the first to go when budgets are tightened. Programs designed to help women and families through crisis — shelter networks and entitlement programs such as Aid to Families with Dependent Children and

Medicaid — are often targets for budget slashes.

Callahan said that budget cuts in these programs will have "long-term negative effects on women." Alaska demographics put a large percentage of women in line for these programs. "We have an extremely young population. We have a population that is bearing children at a higher rate than most any other place. We have the second highest divorce rate in the country."

Callahan sees Alaska as having a unique challenge: to provide equal opportunities to women despite the state's vast size, numerous cultures and the isolation of rural women. She headed the commission's study in 1983 of the economic status of Native women and knows they have special problems brought on by a changing culture.

Native women hold lower-paying jobs than white women in Alaska. The annual income of Native families in 1980 was 56 percent lower than that of white families. The proportion of women raising families without husbands is twice as high among Natives as among whites in Alaska, and Native women often have more children in their care. Many of these Native women are migrating out of rural Alaska in larger numbers than Native men, leaving their villages and traditional support centers to find full-time, better-paying jobs.

"Many of the issues Native women are dealing with have an economic base. We need to increase the hiring and promotion of Native women," Callahan said.

"They are struggling to stay in their villages but can't because there are no jobs. They're struggling to get an

education, but when they leave their villages and come into an urban area, they lose their network of support.

"We have to understand the cultural changes they're going through. By understanding the changes, perhaps we can do something to lessen the impact."

The "enormous" suicide problem in villages also needs to be addressed, she said — perhaps by designing appropriate mental-health intervention networks in the villages.

Much of Callahan's attention this legislative session is focused on getting changes in laws concerning divorce and dissolution of marriage, and passage of a "parental leave" bill.

The commission is looking at how women and children fare economically during a divorce. "We want to know if women in Alaska suffer a disproportionate drop in their standard of living during a divorce or dissolution," Callahan said. A recent national study found women experience a 73 percent drop in their standard of living during the first year after divorce, while their former husbands see a 42 percent increase, she said.

Change in the laws sought by the commission would make "career assets" — like professional licenses gained during the marriage through the support of the spouse — part of the marital property subject to divorce settlement.

The parental leave bill would require larger employers to give workers unpaid time off for births and adoptions, guaranteeing them a job when they return.

Child care, she said, is an "issue whose time has come." The recent appointment by

WOMEN: A better life

Continued from Page D-1

the governor of a temporary commission to study the issues of children and families is also a step in the right direction, she says.

She's encouraged that the governor's budget includes an increase in funding for child-care programs that provide subsidies to low- and moderate-income families.

Since the Alaska Women's Commission was created in 1978, it has tackled such issues as violence against women, sexual bias in education and hiring discrimination, and has pushed for changes in laws it believes discriminate against women.

A bill to extend the commission through 1991 is currently before the Legislature. The commission's budget, \$250,000, amounts to about \$1 for every woman in the state, Callahan said.

The commission plans to begin a study next year of teen pregnancy, runaways (two-thirds of which are female) and the issues facing teen-age girls in the state, she said.

Results of its conferences and projects are available free. The commission's 30 or so publications include a legal rights handbook for women and a statewide directory of women's groups.

One of the commission's books — a 200-page journal of interviews with Alaska women — has been distributed to schools and other groups during Women's History Month.

The women featured in the book, "Profiles in Change: Names, Notes and Quotes for Alaskan Women," include homemakers, lawmakers, professional women and Native women. They talk about where they've been in the women's movement and offer opinions and advice on the challenges facing women today. Here are some excerpts:

On money: "I think the most fundamental issue is money. Money is power in our society ... I'm talking about the rudimentary power of having some measure of control and security in your own life." — Juneau resident Sharman Haley, whose legal fight over the right of state employees to engage in political activity after work went to the state Supreme Court.

On Native women's challenges: "We can go the village way, but we'd better know the corporate way, too. We need to be able to walk into any corporate room or meeting in the state and know how to overrule something, how to stop it, how to amend something, how to put it back on the table again." — Georgianna Lincoln, a Native political activist.

On self-esteem: "Always keep in mind that you are original. Be proud of your sex and whatever racial identity you happen to be linked with. Never allow either to affect your dreams or what you want to do with your life." — Mahala Ashley Dickerson, the first black female attorney in both Anchorage and Alabama.

On home life: "I think both young women and young men should learn basic survival skills, and that includes learning how to cook and both partners doing the task of 'housewife.'" — Alice Wardlow of Bethel.

□ The Alaska Women's Commission is sponsoring a "Women's Legal Rights Conference" on April 25 in Anchorage. The conference is free and will be held at the Anchorage Community College. For more information, call 276-4769. As part of Women's History Month, a reception to honor the late community activist Willie McGarvey will be held March 22 at the Senior Citizen's Center in Anchorage. The reception, from 1 p.m.-3 p.m., is sponsored by the Anchorage Women's Commission. On March 26 and 27, the "Female Minority Leadership Conference" sponsored by the Anchorage School District and the Alaska Women's Commission will be held in Anchorage. For more information, call 276-4769.

Deception used to

By WILLIAM R. GREER
The New York Times

NEW YORK — Rachelle Cagner opened her mail last Sept. 26 and found a letter from the Corporate Accounting Office of the Disbursement Center. In exchange for "confirmation" of her Social Security number, date of birth, telephone number and address, the letter said the office would forward "a check" for "funds on deposit" in her name.

To most people, that might sound like a pretty good offer. Cagner thought so. If the disbursement center wants to disburse some funds, far be it from her to get in the way, she thought. But then she remembered that the New York State Comptroller's office once tracked down a friend to give him some undisbursed funds and no one ever asked him to confirm his Social Security number.

When she took a second look at the letter she saw there was no Social Security number to confirm, let alone anything else to confirm, just empty blanks to fill in.

"That's what tipped me off," she said. "If someone has money for you they will have your Social Security number and ask you if it's the right one. They were trying to take me for a fool."

The disbursement center is a collection agency and what it was trying to do, according to the New York State Attorney General's office, was collect information so that it could collect money. It got in touch with Cagner, and probably a number of other people with her name, because it was trying to track down a

debtor named nis Rosen, an in Buffalo.

Rosen said ter, which ha Manufacturers Chase Manha Midland Ban 30,000 such throughout th if they write them a chec unclaimed fun

If they tur question, ins' dunned, he sa to be the deb ing again or r said the cor \$900,000 a yea

Rosen said and two othe: Associates an qua County, i by Ronald : General Robe his three coll from mailing

The suit ch violated the Practices Act of New Yor Law that b deceiving pe debtors.

"For him through dece tute a very s Rosen said

STEREOTYPES: Ea

Continued from Page D-1

asceticism and embracing the ancient Greek ideal that mind and body could be traffic-stopping at the same time.

Nevertheless, Searle cautioned, "We do have in this country a certain stereotype of the intellectual, what he is supposed to look like."

Translated into simple American English, intellectual means Eastern.

At the school of medicine at the University of Illinois in Chicago, Kenneth Vaux, a professor of ethics in medicine, contends that the differences in East-West ideals reflect contrasts in cultural roots. "The New England Puritan-Pilgrim mentality is still pervasive from the East through the Midwest," Vaux

community, shaped m Asian cultures whose a example, is some of th erotic in the world."

Or, as Thomas F. Ca expert in the psycholo body appearance, dubb classic East Coast style dious looking."

Less charitably, bi trainer-to-the-stars Steinfeld offers this a of the typical Eastern body: "concave chest arms, a stomach like dha and legs like a bird

In the West, fashion ers report, even the m servative of women more comfortable ex more of their body t women in the East. " York they want their to mid-calf length. Adolfo, designer to F de Moscow Duma

DATE

TO: House State Affairs Committee

FR: SITKA LIO

SENT BY SITKA, ALASKA LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE.

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS ONE: _____

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE HAVE A RAPICOM 230 AUTOMATIC TELECOPIER; THIS MACHINE CANNOT TRANSMIT PAGES LARGER THAN 8½" x 14". OUR TELECOPIER DIRECT LINE IS (907) 747-5807.

PLEASE TELEPHONE IMMEDIATELY IF ANY PAGES ARE RECEIVED IMPROPERLY: (907) 747-6277.

BILLED TO: _____

INFORMATION ~~FROM~~: FROM DATE: _____

NAME: KAREN CHRISTNER ORG.: _____

ADDRESS: PO Box 315 PHONE NO.: _____

SITKA AK CONTACTS: _____

MATERIALS REQUESTED: _____

The Names on this list endorse the testimony of Karen Christner Re: HB4

DATE SENT: _____ BY: _____

P 1072

Stephenie Vierfo
Joyce Pearson
Elaine Steinbach
Carol Twitty
Penny Locke
Gail Schornak
Shirley Demmert
Pat Baker
Molly Kitka
Kathy Johnson
Cathy Green
Jovita Luster
Diana Erickson
Ingrid Polivka
Willow Yadon
Brenda Reynolds
Margo Hillis
Shirely Mc Coy
Teresa Robertson
Connie Evans
Sally Albright
Michelle Dapcevich

Trudy Wimberly
Fran Hallgren
Alene Henning
Cindy Hamock
Coke Dines
Mary Jo McNelly
Karen Christner
Lesa Kitka
Tari Vanderbilt
Pam Green
Polly Donnelly
Flo Benton
Carol Denkinger
Kelly Alsup
Florence Nettle
Kathy Newman
Sue Newell
Linda Trierschild
Carolyn Simpson
Vicki Keffler
Shawn Roberts



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

January 16, 1987

JAN 13 1987

Mr. Gerald L. Wilkerson
Legislative Auditor
P.O. Box W
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Mr. Wilkerson:

I disagree with the recommendation contained in the report from the Legislative Audit Division concerning the Alaska Women's Commission, dated October 31, 1986, and delivered to me on December 19, 1986. I believe the Alaska Women's Commission has fulfilled its legislative mandate and that the staff component is essential to the Commission's continued effectiveness.

The report's assertion that there are no "quantifiable measures of the Alaska Women's Commission's effectiveness" is unfounded given that the legislatively stated purpose of the agency is to improve the status of women in Alaska by conducting research and by making and implementing additional recommendations on the opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women in Alaska. It is unfair to apply a standard of effectiveness which reaches outside the framework of the agency's purpose.

The attached detail provided by the Commission's Chair clearly demonstrates that the Alaska Women's Commission has, with limited resources, conducted extensive research and made both legislative and administrative recommendations. The work of the Commission has made a measurable and significant contribution to the improved opportunities that Alaska women enjoy:

Since 1970, women's work force participation in Alaska has increased by 17.2 percent. During the same period the national women's labor force participation increased by only 8.5 percent.

In 1985, Alaska women comprised 30 percent of the professional and managerial positions in the state. In the U.S. that figure had reached only 22.5 percent.



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION
3601 C STREET - SUITE 742
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503

RECEIVED FEB 5 1987

Testimony of Kris Chatfield dated 2/4/87
Given in Anchorage, Alaska to the House State Affairs
Committee

Representative Ulmer and Members of the House Affairs
Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss with
you legislation to continue the Alaska Women's Commission.

As you grapple with the complex problem of preparing a state
budget there is a growing concern among Alaskan women that
hard-earned advances toward equity for women will be halted.

The Alaska Women's Commission has earned respect from all
quarters for its dedicated work as an advocate for change to
improve the status of women in Alaska. The Commission's
research has provided the necessary data to show areas of
weakness in public policy and pointed the way to bring about
statutory, or policy changes to end discriminatory practices
against women.

The Alaska Women's Commission is a conduit for women and
organizations representing their needs and interests. The
Alaska Women's Commission provides a voice with a legis-
lative mandate and support through the Governor's office
that can effect positive changes toward the goal of equality
for women.

An aggressive educational outreach has brought to the
forefront the problems faced by women in areas such as;
labor, education, employment, legal rights, domestic
violence, and economic survival. This research is
accompanied by recommendations, some of which have begun to
be implemented as the result of commission advocacy and
leadership.

As a result of the statutory review during FY85, seven bills
were introduced in the 1986 Legislative Session. These
bills dealt with pension reform, parental leave, divorce and
dissolution, child custody, sexual assault and inheritance
and probate. Three of the bills were signed into law.

The FY82 budget for the Alaska Women's Commission was
\$288,700, while the current budget is \$251,900 or
approximately \$37,000 less than FY82. Women from all over

the state take an active role in supporting the issues and working on local levels. With this grassroots support, more staff time can be dedicated to the coordinating and background work for all the Commission's efforts. Even with the utmost volunteer support and dedication of the staff, funding is vital to provide the means for basic research and staff necessary to enable the commission to fulfill its mandated requirements.

The current staffing level reflects a 25% cut of full-time staff since last year, and 33% cut in professional staff since FY86. It would be impossible to produce the quality research, and publications that the Commission is currently providing if this minimum level of staff support were not available. It is certainly through the commitment of the current staff that quality and effectiveness have been maintained in spite of already substantial cutbacks.

In light of the current economic conditions, the Alaska Women's Commission has considered possible ways of maintaining effectiveness while limiting its funding resources. The Commission could teleconference one meeting, and a substantial savings could be realized if the Commission were able to acquire the necessary hardware to enable the staff to do certain projects such as data analysis.

The Commission has included in its action plan for 1988, plans for an administrative review. This was first called for in 1982 by the Alaska Women's Commission in its review of recommendations called for by the Human Rights Commission in their preliminary study of the status of women which was done in 1977.

This is an important project which had to be set aside due to the press of other pertinent issues and budget constraints. In addition to an administrative review, other important issues demand attention such as those facing young women. The issue of teenage pregnancy needs a comprehensive and thoughtful look. A follow-thru of the educational equity report to find out why young women are not preparing for economic self-sufficiency is certainly needed. There are still needs of rural women, older women, native and other minority women, that must be addressed.

The role of the Commission is vital to the economic well being of women in Alaska. In turn, their economic viability and therefore decreased dependence on State dollars has a significant impact on future state budgets.

The caption underneath a picture of a small boat adrift on the ocean is very appropriate, it says; "Dear Lord, be good to me. The sea is so wide and my boat is so small."

The goal of improving the status of women is so important that to eliminate the Alaska Women's Commission or reduce its effectiveness by removing funding, jeopardizes the precarious status of women and as a result, the overall economy.

I urge you to continue the Alaska Women's Commission and to do whatever is necessary to provide adequate funding to continue the current level of service.

Kris Chatfield
Chair - Alaska Women's Commission

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date referred: 1/19/87

FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

DATE: 2-4-87

The State Affairs Committee has considered HB 4

"An Act relating to extending the termination date of the Alaska Women's Commission; and providing for an effective date."

RECOMMENDS:

- replace with _____ the same title
- attached amendment(s) a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s):

- fiscal impact same as previous fiscal note published _____
- zero fiscal note same as previous zero fiscal note published _____
- zero with analysis

SIGNING DO PASS:

[Signature]

[Signature] (note to Finance give consideration to recommendations of Leg. Budget & Audit Committee's recommendations.)

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Signature] (NO REC.)

[Signature] - needs amendments

[Signature]
Chairman's signature

**STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE**

REQUEST: _____
 Bill Version: HB-4
 Publish Date: 1-19-87
 Revision Date: _____
 Title: Extending The Termination
 Date Of The AK. Womens Commission
 Sponsor: Davis, Ulmer, Koponen, Ellis
 Requestor: House State Affairs
 Agency Affected: Office of the Governor
 BRU: Alaska Womens Commission
 Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES		160.2	160.2	160.2	160.2	
TRAVEL		29.2	29.2	29.2	29.2	
CONTRACTUAL		69.7	69.7	69.7	69.7	
SUPPLIES		3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		262.6	262.6	262.6	262.6	
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		251.5	251.5	251.5	251.5	
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER		11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1	
TOTAL		262.6	262.6	262.6	262.6	

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME		3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Michael A. Nizich Phone: 465-3616
 Division: Administrative Service Date: 1-27-87

Approved by Commissioner: Carol P. Kastelic Date: 1-27-87
 Agency: Office of the Governor

Distribution (by preparer):
 Legislative Finance
 Legislative Sponsor
 Requestor
 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agency(ies)
 Senate Secretary

The fiscal impact for the continuation of the Women's Commission is as stated above and is supported by the FY 88 Governor's budget submission. Additional support may be obtained in the Governor's memo dated January 16, 1987 to the Legislative Auditor recommending the continued operation of the Alaska Women's Commission's full-time staff support.



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Mike Davis

P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-4930/4941

Interim Office:
P.O. Box 81435
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

MEMORANDUM

To: House State Affairs Committee

From: Rep. Mike Davis *Mike*

Date: February 4, 1987

Re: HB 4; Extending the termination date of the Alaska Women's Commission

Under existing sunset provisions, the Alaska Women's Commission is scheduled to terminate on June 30, 1987. HB 4 would extend the life of the Commission to June 30, 1991, without making any changes to the statutes.

The Alaska Women's Commission is the only state agency that is directed toward all Alaska Women. On-going activities of the Commission include a study on the economics of divorce and a conference designed to educate women about their legal rights, including discrimination in the workplace, in housing and in obtaining credit. During FY 87, the Commission also plans to establish several women's councils in rural areas of the state, conduct a series of constituent meetings in at least four different communities, and work toward the introduction of legislation relating to divorce and dissolution and parental leave.

As with other state agencies, the staff and funding levels of the Alaska Women's Commission were dramatically reduced in FY 87. However, the Commission has demonstrated an ability to work effectively at the reduced level, and the benefits provided by the Commission to women throughout the state warrant the continuation of this agency.



Box 33977
Juneau, AK 99803

February 4, 1987

FRANK AND ERNEST.....by Bob Thaves



The Honorable Fran Ulmer, Chairman
State Affairs Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Ulmer:

While the above comic strip might bring a chuckle when it appears in the funny papers, the realities of life even here in Alaska make its message all too poignant.

The Alaska Division of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is vitally interested in and supportive of HR 4 (and its companion bill, SB 89) which would extend the Alaska Women's Commission until 1991.

It would be wonderful to not have to be interested in extension of the Women's Commission...to let it fade into the arctic sunset...because that would be indicative of no further need for an Alaska Women's Commission. But that is not yet the case in 1987, and unfortunately Alaskan women are still very much in need of an advocate agency.

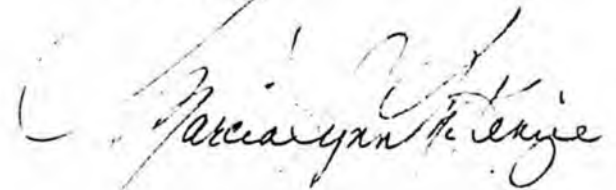
On the average, Alaskan women are still paid less than two-thirds than men for performing work of similar nature. Half of the adult women in Alaska are employed away from home, many out of need rather than choice. With the harsh economic realities that Alaska is now facing, it would be all too easy for society to slip backwards in time to social and economic patterns discriminating against women.

Rep. Ulmer
February 4, 1987

Page 2

In FY 87, the Revised Budget for the Alaska Women's Commission was \$262.6 GF. For FY 88, the Governor has proposed the same level of funding, which represents 0.02% of his entire General Fund operating budget. In light of the accomplishments of the Alaska Women's Commission, which I need not reiterate here, it would not be appropriate to sacrifice the enormous gains women in Alaska have made by not extending the Alaska Women's Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marcia Lynn McKenzie". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Marcia Lynn McKenzie
President

A PERFORMANCE REPORT ON THE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION

October 31, 1986

Audit Control Number

01-1274-86-R

Governor, State of Alaska

Steve Cowper

Lieutenant Governor, State
of Alaska

Stephen McAlpine

Members of the
Alaska Women's Commission

Chair
Vice-Chair
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member
Ex Officio

Kris Chatfield
Joy Green-Armstrong
Betty Ramage
Pauline Beltz-Hooten
Marcia Johnson
Mary Pete
Wendy Redman
Paula Ziegler
Vacant
Elizabeth Kennedy

STATE OF ALASKA

AUDIT DIVISION
POUCH W
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-3300

THE LEGISLATURE

BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

October 31, 1986

Members of the Legislative Budget
and Audit Committee:

In accordance with the provisions of Titles 13 and 44 of the
Alaska Statutes (sunset legislation), the attached report is
submitted for your review.

A PERFORMANCE REPORT ON THE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION

October 31, 1986

Audit Control Number

01-1274-86-R



Gerald L. Wilkerson, CPA
Legislative Auditor
Division of Legislative Audit

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Purpose of the Report	1
Organization and Function	3
Report Conclusion	5
Findings and Recommendations	7
Analysis of Public Need	9
Appendixes:	
A. Statement of Authorizations and Expenditures	15
B. Schedule of Research, Publications, and Conferences	17
Agency Response:	
Office of the Governor.	19
Auditor Additional Comments	25

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

In accordance with the intent of Titles 24 and 44 of the Alaska Statutes (sunset legislation), an examination of the Alaska Women's Commission was conducted to determine if the Commission has been operating in an effective, efficient, and economical manner.

As required by legislative intent, this report shall be considered during the legislative oversight function in determining whether the Alaska Women's Commission should be reestablished. The law currently specifies that this Commission will terminate on June 30, 1987, but will continue until June 30, 1988 for the purpose of concluding its affairs.

The major areas of our examination were the administration, research, education, and advocacy functions of the Commission. Our review and evaluation included the following:

1. Applicable statutes and regulations.
2. Discussions with Commission members and staff of the Commission.
3. Discussions with private women's organizations.
4. Commission research projects and publications.

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION

In response to a study issued during 1977, the 1978 legislature created the Alaska Women's Commission (AWC) within the Office of the Governor. AWC consists of nine Commissioners and an ex officio member representing the Attorney General's office. The Commissioners serve at the pleasure of the Governor for overlapping five year terms.

Alaska Statute 44.19 charges AWC with the responsibility to implement the recommendations contained in the preliminary study on the status of women in Alaska produced by the Human rights Commission during 1977. In addition, AWC is to improve the status of women in Alaska by conducting further research and by making and implementing additional recommendations on the opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women in Alaska.

In meeting its statutory directive to improve the legal, economic, social, and political status of women in Alaska, AWC employs a variety of mediums including research, publications, advocacy, conferences, information and referral services, and public education.

To accomplish its purpose, the Commission may:

1. Hire an executive director and additional administrative staff as may be necessary to the commission's function.
2. Act as a clearinghouse and coordinating body for governmental and nongovernmental information relating to the status of women.
3. Cooperate with public and private agencies in joint efforts to study and resolve problems relating to the status of women in Alaska.
4. Accumulate and compile information concerning discrimination against women.
5. Disseminate the results of research and compilation of data by publication and other methods such as public hearings, conferences, and seminars.
6. Study and analyze all facts relating to Alaska laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to equal protection for women under the State Constitution.
7. Recommend legislative and administrative action on equal treatment and opportunities for women.

REPORT CONCLUSION

Policy Issues

This report contains policy issues raised as a result of our evaluation of various Commission practices. The final policy decisions affecting those practices are not within the scope of this report but require legislative consideration. In debating these issues the legislative oversight committees should take into consideration the findings and recommendations presented in this report, so that the potential impact of the policy changes can be evaluated.

Report Conclusion

There are no quantifiable measures of AWC's effectiveness which demonstrates the benefits to Alaskans or whether women are afforded any significantly greater opportunities as the direct result of the Commission. However, we do recognize a benefit to having organizations devoted to improving the status of women, to serve as advocates for change, and to provide a forum for discussing significant issues.

Therefore, we recommend that AWC be allowed to continue to provide this forum. However, in our opinion, the budget for AWC should only provide for the travel and per diem of the Commission members. We recommend that the full-time staff support of AWC should be eliminated.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation No. 1

The Alaska Women's Commission (AWC) should be continued, but full-time staff support should be eliminated.

AWC was created to implement the recommendations contained in the 1977 Human Rights Commission (HRC) study and for the betterment of women in Alaska. To accomplish its purpose, AWC serves to educate women on pertinent issues and advocates for change to improve the status of women. The functions of AWC provide the foundation and basis for any group to initiate change.

In carrying out its statutory directive of improving the status of women in Alaska, AWC educates women through publication of their research projects and by holding conferences and seminars to disseminate information about women's issues (see Appendix B). The Commission also analyzes legislation and makes recommendations for statutory and policy changes.

Unlike a regulatory or licensing agency, the activities of AWC do not provide easily quantifiable measures to analyze the Commission's effectiveness. While the productivity of AWC can be easily demonstrated by listings of research documents, publications, meetings, and seminars, there are no quantifiable measures of AWC's effectiveness which demonstrates the benefits to Alaskans or whether women are afforded any significantly greater opportunities as the direct result of the Commission. However, we do recognize a benefit to having organizations to improve the status of women, to serve as advocates for change, and to provide a forum for discussing significant issues.

Therefore, we recommend that AWC be allowed to continue to provide this forum. However, in our opinion, the budget for AWC should only provide for the travel and per diem of the Commission members. We recommend that the full-time staff support of AWC should be eliminated.

Clerical support could be provided to AWC on an as-needed basis from the Office of the Governor. Research related activities and projects could be specifically funded by the Legislature through the budget process, and could be accomplished either through contracting by the Governor's Office or direct appropriation to the Human Rights Commission which has the statutory authority necessary to conduct research that in its judgement will tend to eliminate discrimination. Other activities of AWC and its staff may necessarily have to be assumed by other women's organizations throughout the State.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC NEED

Limited Analysis

The following analyses of commission activities relate to the public need factors defined in the "sunset" law. These analyses are not intended to be comprehensive, but address those areas we were able to cover within the scope of our review.

- I. The extent to which the board, commission, or program has operated in the public interest.

The Commission has been dedicated in its attempt to resolve discrimination against women through education and advocacy. The Commission undertakes research projects and issues reports that generally state the problems and includes recommendations for changes to advance the rights of women. However, although one may quantify the output of the Commission, one cannot easily quantify the impact of the Commission on the status of women (see Recommendation No. 1).

- II. The extent to which the operation of the board, commission, or agency program has been impeded or enhanced by existing statutes, procedures, and practices which it has adopted, and any other matter, including budgetary, resource, and personnel matters.

The Alaska Women's Commission Act does not provide for any regulatory or licensing activities, instead the Act allows the Commission to conduct research and make recommendations to the State for the betterment of women.

The Commission periodically issues reports to disseminate information on women's issues. As a result of the State's dwindling revenues, AWC has had to reduce its publications as well as staffing.

- III. The extent to which the board, commission, or agency has recommended statutory changes which are generally of benefit to the public interest.

To effect change for the betterment of women, the Commission has actively endorsed as well as initiated statutory changes. During FY 85, the Commission initiated a comprehensive review of Alaska statutes to identify those statutory provisions which run counter to the principle of equal rights. The review identified over 80 statutes needing revision which resulted in seven bills being introduced during the 1986 Legislative Session. Three of the bills were signed into law.

IX. The extent to which statutory, regulatory, budgeting, or other changes are necessary to enable the agency, board, or commission to better serve the interest of the public and to comply with the factors enumerated in this subsection.

Please refer to the previous section, Findings and Recommendations.

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATIONS AND EXPENDITURES
For the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 1983 through 1986
(Note 1)

	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>
<u>Authorizations</u>	<u>\$348,100</u>	<u>\$326,700</u>	<u>\$344,951</u>	<u>\$349,300</u>
<u>Expenditures</u>				
Personal Services	178,810	175,399	194,317	235,662
Travel	33,772	38,422	29,215	24,308
Contractual	121,860	92,063	61,089	67,524
Commodities	<u>1,293</u>	<u>3,666</u>	<u>2,857</u>	<u>2,678</u>
<u>Total Expenditures</u>	<u>335,735</u>	<u>309,550</u>	<u>287,478</u>	<u>330,172</u>
<u>Lapsed Balance</u>	<u>\$ 12,365</u>	<u>\$ 17,150</u>	<u>\$ 57,473</u>	<u>\$ 19,628</u>

Note 1: The information included in this summary was obtained from AWC records and the State accounting system. This information has not been audited by us and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

APPENDIX B

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION
SCHEDULE OF RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, AND CONFERENCES
For the Calendar Years 1983, 1984, 1985, and 1986 through
June 30, 1986

<u>Category</u>	<u>Year</u>
<u>Research</u>	
Study on the Economic Status of Alaska Native Women	1983
Changing Role of Women in Alaska	1984
Comprehensive Review of the Alaska Statutes for Sex Discrimination	1984
Sex Equity in Education	1985
Divorce and Dissolution: Economic Consequences	1986
<u>Publications</u>	
Profiles in Change: Names, Notes, and Quotes for Alaskan Women	1983
Summary of the Report on the Economic Status of Alaskan Native Women	1983
Women in Labor Unions: Seminar Report	1984
Women's Legal Rights in Alaska	1984
Directory of Women's Organizations	1984
Child Care Directory	1984
Alaska Women: A Databook	1984
Directory of Women's Organizations	1985
A Review of the Alaska Statutes for Sex Discrimination	1985
A Sense of History: A Reference Guide to Alaska's Women 1896-1985	1985
At the Edge of Opportunity: A Statewide Conference on Women, the Economy and Public Policy	1985
Commitment or Complacency? An Assessment of Sex Equity in Alaska's Educational Institutions	1986

In addition, the Alaska Women's Commission has published several brochures, fact sheets, and women's posters.



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

January 16, 1987

Mr. Gerald L. Wilkerson
Legislative Auditor
P.O. Box W
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Mr. Wilkerson:

I disagree with the recommendation contained in the report from the Legislative Audit Division concerning the Alaska Women's Commission, dated October 31, 1986, and delivered to me on December 19, 1986. I believe the Alaska Women's Commission has fulfilled its legislative mandate and that the staff component is essential to the Commission's continued effectiveness.

The report's assertion that there are no "quantifiable measures of the Alaska Women's Commission's effectiveness" is unfounded given that the legislatively stated purpose of the agency is to improve the status of women in Alaska by conducting research and by making and implementing additional recommendations on the opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women in Alaska. It is unfair to apply a standard of effectiveness which reaches outside the framework of the agency's purpose.

The attached detail provided by the Commission's Chair clearly demonstrates that the Alaska Women's Commission has, with limited resources, conducted extensive research and made both legislative and administrative recommendations. The work of the Commission has made a measurable and significant contribution to the improved opportunities that Alaska women enjoy:

Since 1970, women's work force participation in Alaska has increased by 17.2 percent. During the same period the national women's labor force participation increased by only 8.5 percent.

In 1985, Alaska women comprised 30 percent of the professional and managerial positions in the state. In the U.S. that figure had reached only 22.5 percent.

Alaska Women's Commission

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
FY85 - FY86

- 1) Only state agency exclusively concentrating on trying to ensure women's equality.
- 2) Completed a review of the Alaska Statutes for Sex Discrimination which identified over 80 discriminatory laws.
- 3) Proposed six bills for introduction by the Governor which would have a significant economic impact on women. Three of these bills passed.
- 4) Responsible for Alaska's state government initiating an expanded register to increase the hiring of women in ranges 18 and above.
- 5) As a result of the Alaska Women's Commission's efforts, former spouses and widows of state employees are able to purchase group health insurance at a comparable price at no expense to the state.
- 6) Established four local women's councils in Sitka, Juneau, Anchorage, and Barrow to help women on the local level. Wasilla and Fairbanks are in the process of being formed now.
- 7) Worked with the Department of Administration to increase the recruitment and hiring of Native women.
- 8) Worked with the court system to revise the forms for dissolutions so that lay people could more easily understand their rights and obligations.
- 9) Published and distributed over 10,000 copies of Legal Rights handbooks which explains Alaska's law as it pertains to women without having to consult a lawyer.
- 10) Evaluated the implementation of Alaska's sex equity in education law, Chapter 18, in Alaska's school districts.
- 11) Since its inception has sponsored seventeen rural women's conferences in communities throughout Alaska; two Statewide Women's Conferences; and additional Leadership Seminars on issues of vital importance to achieving full equality for women.

EDUCATION, Con't.

Communities

5 Seminars --

Sex Equity in Education
Women in Prisons
Women in Public Life
Women in Labor Unions
International Women's Conference:
Report from Nairobi

Wasilla
Juneau
Fairbanks
Anchorage

Anchorage

30 Television and radio PSAs
featuring Alaska women

Statewide
Distribution

PUBLICATIONS

Copies
Distributed

Legal Rights Handbook
Directory of Women's Organizations
A Sense of History: A Reference Guide
Names, Notes and Quotes: A Profile of
Alaskan Women
Fact Sheets: Insurance, Pensions,
Education, Politics
Posters

10,000
5,000
3,000
11,000
4,000
8,000

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

Over the past two years the Commission has been contacted by 2,804 women who have requested assistance.

Approximately 1,000-1,500 requests for information and assistance per year.

STATE OF ALASKA

AUDIT DIVISION
POUCH W
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-3300

THE LEGISLATURE

BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

January 16, 1987

Members of the Legislative Budget
and Audit Committee:

We have reviewed the Office of the Governor's response to
our preliminary report. Our comments follow:

Recommendation No. 1

The Office of the Governor disagrees with our recommendation
that the full-time staff support of the Commission should be
eliminated. The response identifies several areas where the
status of women in Alaska has improved within the last
decade, especially when compared to national statistics.
While we agree that the status of women in Alaska has
improved, the extent to which this progress is directly
attributable to the Alaska Women's Commission could be
debated.

As stated in the recommendation, we agree there is a benefit
to having organizations to improve the status of women and
to advocate for change, however, we disagree with the Office
of the Governor's response that a three person staff is
essential to this purpose. It should be noted that while
the Commission's staff has conducted some research, several
of their major research projects have been done under
contract with the private sector.

We reaffirm our recommendation that the Alaska Women's
Commission should be continued, but the full-time staff
support should be eliminated. Clerical support for the
Commission should be provided on an as-needed basis by the
Office of the Governor.



Gerald L. Wilkerson, CPA
Legislative Auditor
Division of Legislative Audit



P
O
S
I
T
I
O
N

P
A
P
E
R

SUNSET REVIEW

In 1987 The Alaska Women's Commission will face its "sunset" review. This is an opportunity for the people and legislators of Alaska to evaluate the Commission's effectiveness and decide if its work should be continued.

The decline in state revenues, as traumatic as it has been, does not approach the economic distress that women and children will face at the close of this century if we do not take action now. These trends toward increased poverty of women and children MUST be reversed. The Alaska Women's Commission is the only state agency working to insure that this issue is a policy priority.

Established in 1977 to improve the status of women in education, employment, health, homemaking and civil and legal rights, the Alaska Women's Commission was made a permanent commission in 1983.

This year the Commission is continuing its legislative effort to establish a Parental Leave Policy for state employees and to secure reforms in the Dissolution laws. Its major research project will assess the economic inequities that have accompanied "no-fault" divorce in Alaska. And in an effort to assist women whose access to affordable legal assistance has been drastically reduced, a Conference on Women's Legal Rights is in the plans as well.

Its accomplishments since 1977 are substantial and can only be highlighted in this brief summary:

- Completed a review of the Alaska Statutes for sex discrimination. This was the first and only such review ever conducted and it identified more than 80 discriminatory laws.

- Prepared seven bills for introduction by the Governor. These bills would have a significant economic impact on at least the 5,000 women who are divorced each year, the 4,000 children in those families headed by women and the 1,000 older women who will benefit immediately through fair and equitable distribution of pensions when this legislation becomes law. Three of the bills passed in 1986.

- Secured private funding to produce and air on state-wide television and radio a series of thirty profiles of Alaskan Women in History.

- Published and distributed over 10,000 copies of "Women's Legal Rights in Alaska" so that women can understand Alaska's law as it pertains to them without seeking expensive legal consultation.

- Evaluated the implementation of Alaska's sex equity in education law. Published and distributed the results in "Commitment or Complacency: An Assessment of Sex Equity in Alaska's Educational Institutions."

- Established four local women's councils to provide an effective voice for women on the local level. Their work in no way replaces or addresses state-level priorities that are addressed by the Alaska Women's Commission.

- Responded to the appalling lack of data on women's status by researching and producing Alaska Women: A Data-book, the first socioeconomic profile of Alaska's female population

- Implemented recommendations from its study on The Economic Status of Alaska Native Women to improve Native women's employment opportunities.

- Educated more than 5,000 individuals at statewide conferences, regional workshops and local seminars at fifteen locations throughout urban, rural and bush Alaska.

- Obtained an administrative change enabling widows and former spouses to continue group health insurance at no cost to the State. This measure is likely to affect 1,700 women and their 1,000 children this year alone. It will also prevent large numbers of these same families from requiring state funded medical assistance.

- Spearheaded Alaska's state government initiative to increase hiring of women into ranges 18 and above. The quantifiable impact will be gauged as these initiatives become operational and will be measured by the Division of EEO.

- Worked to revise forms for marital dissolutions so that lay people could understand their rights and obligations and reach more equitable settlements.

- Produced and distributed nearly 30,000 other publications on women's rights, women's history and information on insurance, pensions and politics since 1984.

The Alaska Women's Commission is the only state agency which speaks for all the women of Alaska. As it faces a sunset review in 1987, it is anticipated that the numerous supporters who worked to keep the Commission in the budget in 1986 will again work to maintain the Commission as a legislative priority.



STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION
3601 C STREET - SUITE 742
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503

REQUEST FOR RESOURCES

<u>Making a Difference: A Primer for Women in Public Life.</u> 1986 _____ A handbook for political involvement. Includes information on campaign planning, voter contact, and working with volunteers.
<u>Women in Prison: Does the Justice System Do Them Justice?</u> A report on the current status of female offenders in Alaska and the United States. 1986 _____
<u>Regional Conferences 1986.</u> Activities and recommendations from the rural women's conferences funded by the Commission in 1986 - Bethel, Huslia, Sitka, and Wasilla. 1986 _____
<u>Sex Equity in Education Report.</u> An assessment of sex equity in Alaska's educational institutions with recommendations for future action. 1986 _____
<u>Annual Report.</u> A review of the major accomplishments of the Women's Commission from January 1, 1985, to December 31, 1985. 1985 _____
<u>A Review of the Alaska Statutes for Sex Discrimination</u> Final report of the comprehensive review of Alaska Statutes to determine sex discrimination. 1985 _____
<u>A Sense of History: A Reference Guide to Alaska's Women 1896 - 1985.</u> An annotated bibliography of books, articles, audio visual aids, and photo displays about Alaska women in history. 1985 _____
<u>At the Edge of Opportunity: A Statewide Conference on Women, The Economy, and Public Policy.</u> A summary of the workshops, activities, and recommendations from the March 1985 conference. 1985 _____
<u>Directory of Women's Organizations.</u> Statewide directory of women's organizations. 1985 _____
<u>Alaska Women: A Databook.</u> Profile of Alaska women based upon the 1980 Census, includes statistical appendix. 1984 _____
<u>Women in Labor Unions: Seminar Report.</u> Summary of the seminar that focused on the role of women in labor organizations, what problems women face and how to make unions more responsive to women. 1984 _____



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION
3601 C STREET - SUITE 742
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503

COMMISSIONERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>
Kris Chatfield, Chair	88	13045 Hillside Drive Anchorage, AK 99516	345-6772 (H)
Joy Green-Armstrong Vice Chair	91	2671 Fatemeh Circle Anchorage, AK 99507	265-0456 (B) 562-5380 (H)
Loretta Bullard	91	P.O. Box 1969 Nome, Alaska 99762	443-5231 (W)
Marcia Johnson	88	Star Route 111 Cedar Beach Road Sitka, AK 99835	747-3776 (H)
Elizabeth Kennedy * (Pat)		1031 W. 4th Avenue Suite 200 Anchorage, AK 99501	276-3550 (B) 333-1217 (H)
Mary Pete	89	PO Box 2071 Bethel, AK 99559	543-3107 (B) 543-3074 (H)
Betty Ramage	89	1527 'H' Street Anchorage, AK 99501	278-4188 (H)
Wendy Redman	88	1104 Breckenridge Road Fairbanks, AK 99701	474-7582 (B) 457-5805 (H)
Paula Ziegler	91	307 Bawden Street Ketchikan, AK 99901	225-5077 (H)

* Attorney General's Office Representative (ex-officio)

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR



PHONE
(907) 561-4227

STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION
3601 C STREET • SUITE 742
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503

Testimony of Kris Chatfield dated 2/4/87
Given in Anchorage, Alaska to the House State Affairs
Committee

Representative Ulmer and Members of the House Affairs
Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss with
you legislation to continue the Alaska Women's Commission.

As you grapple with the complex problem of preparing a state
budget there is a growing concern among Alaskan women that
hard-earned advances toward equity for women will be halted.

The Alaska Women's Commission has earned respect from all
quarters for its dedicated work as an advocate for change to
improve the status of women in Alaska. The Commission's
research has provided the necessary data to show areas of
weakness in public policy and pointed the way to bring about
statutory, or policy changes to end discriminatory practices
against women.

The Alaska Women's Commission is a conduit for women and
organizations representing their needs and interests. The
Alaska Women's Commission provides a voice with a legis-
lative mandate and support through the Governor's office
that can effect positive changes toward the goal of equality
for women.

An aggressive educational outreach has brought to the
forefront the problems faced by women in areas such as;
labor, education, employment, legal rights, domestic
violence, and economic survival. This research is
accompanied by recommendations, some of which have begun to
be implemented as the result of commission advocacy and
leadership.

As a result of the statutory review during FY85, seven bills
were introduced in the 1986 Legislative Session. These
bills dealt with pension reform, parental leave, divorce and
dissolution, child custody, sexual assault and inheritance
and probate. Three of the bills were signed into law.

The FY82 budget for the Alaska Women's Commission was
\$288,700, while the current budget is \$251,900 or
approximately \$37,000 less than FY82. Women from all over

the state take an active role in supporting the issues and working on local levels. With this grassroots support, more staff time can be dedicated to the coordinating and background work for all the Commission's efforts. Even with the utmost volunteer support and dedication of the staff, funding is vital to provide the means for basic research and staff necessary to enable the commission to fulfill its mandated requirements.

The current staffing level reflects a 25% cut of full-time staff since last year, and 33% cut in professional staff since FY86. It would be impossible to produce the quality research, and publications that the Commission is currently providing if this minimum level of staff support were not available. It is certainly through the commitment of the current staff that quality and effectiveness have been maintained in spite of already substantial cutbacks.

In light of the current economic conditions, the Alaska Women's Commission has considered possible ways of maintaining effectiveness while limiting its funding resources. The Commission could teleconference one meeting, and a substantial savings could be realized if the Commission were able to acquire the necessary hardware to enable the staff to do certain projects such as data analysis.

The Commission has included in its action plan for 1988, plans for an administrative review. This was first called for in 1982 by the Alaska Women's Commission in its review of recommendations called for by the Human Rights Commission in their preliminary study of the status of women which was done in 1977.

This is an important project which had to be set aside due to the press of other pertinent issues and budget constraints. In addition to an administrative review, other important issues demand attention such as those facing young women. The issue of teenage pregnancy needs a comprehensive and thoughtful look. A follow-thru of the educational equity report to find out why young women are not preparing for economic self-sufficiency is certainly needed. There are still needs of rural women, older women, native and other minority women, that must be addressed.

The role of the Commission is vital to the economic well being of women in Alaska. In turn, their economic viability and therefore decreased dependence on State dollars has a significant impact on future state budgets.

The caption underneath a picture of a small boat adrift on the ocean is very appropriate, it says; "Dear Lord, be good to me. The sea is so wide and my boat is so small."

The goal of improving the status of women is so important that to eliminate the Alaska Women's Commission or reduce its effectiveness by removing funding, jeopardizes the precarious status of women and as a result, the overall economy.

I urge you to continue the Alaska Women's Commission and to do whatever is necessary to provide adequate funding to continue the current level of service.

Kris Chatfield

Chair - Alaska Women's Commission

ALASKA WOMEN'S LOBBY

POST OFFICE BOX 10-1571, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

February 4, 1987

Honorable Fran Ulmer, Chairman
House State Affairs Committee

Dear Chairman Ulmer and members of the Committee:

The Alaska Women's Lobby would like to lend it's strong support for the continuation of the Alaska Women's Commission.

Since it's creation eight year's ago, the Alaska Women's Commission has worked hard to meet it's statutory directive to improve the legal, economic, social and political status of women in Alaska.

We believe that beyond serving as advocates for positive change and providing a forum for discussing significant issues the Alaska Women's Commission has been effective in the struggle for economic equity for Alaska's women.

During 1985, the Commission initiated a comprehensive review of Alaska statutes to identify those statutory provisions which run counter to the principle of equal rights. The review identified over 80 statutes needing revision. The review was conducted and co-ordinated by the staff of the Women's Commission utilizing the expertise of the Alaska Bar Association, it's members who volunteered their time to the project and the volunteer efforts of other Alaskan women's organizations and individuals.

This work has already resulted in important changes being made in the areas of pension reform and inheritance laws. There is a great deal more to be done.

Since 1950 Alaskan women have increased their labor-force participation

by 548% but over 62% are concentrated in low-paying occupations, and over one quarter of Alaskan families headed by women are living in poverty.

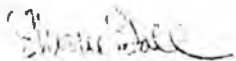
The Women's Commission has over the years provided the women of Alaska a forum for advocacy and education through it's efforts in establishing conferences and workshops on a statewide as well as a regional level and through the distribution of it's publications such as the Legal Rights Handbook and fact sheets on Insurance, Pensions, Education and Politics.

The Women's Commission has been responsible for the initiation of an expanded register to increase the hiring of women in ranges 18 and above and has worked to increase the recruitment and hiring of Native women. It functions as a clearinghouse for information on services, programs, legislation and issues which relate to women's concerns in the state of Alaska today.

Equal opportunity has begun, but it is not complete. We urge you to support the extension of the Alaska Women's Commission so that they may continue the important work of achieving full equality for Alaskan women.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sherrie Goll

for the Alaska Women's Lobby