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HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred: February 6, 1989

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 2/23

The FINANCE Committee recommends that:

~~AS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 8 (Finance) am~~ [ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION]

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

[] be replaced with HCS CSSB8(FIN) [] the same title
[] a new title

[] have attached amendment(s)

- [] 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
- [] zero fiscal note
- [] zero with analysis

APPROVES PREVIOUS:

- [] fiscal note(s) published: _____
- [] zero fiscal notes(s) published: _____

SIGNING DO PASS:

Tay Brown Brown

Roll E. Phillips Phillips

Ray Wallis Wallis

SIGNING OTHER THAN DO PASS:
(Do Not Pass, No Recommendation, Amend)

Steve Rieger Rieger

Barbara Barnes Barnes

Ronald J. Larson Larson

Jan Kimer Kimer
needs amendment

Swackhamer Swackhamer

NO REC

Steve Schultz Schultz

simplefy Kopone

Ronald J. Larson
Chairman's signature

STATE OF ALASKA
1989 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

R/O HFC 2-22-89
BILL VERSION: CSSB B (Fin)
PUBLISH DATE: 1/19/89

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 1/9/89
Title: "An Act relating to the Alaska Women's Commission and providing for an effective date."
Sponsor: Fahrenkamp, Sturgulewski,...
Requestor: Fahrenkamp

Agency Affected: Office of the Governor
BRU: Commissions/Special Offices
Components: Alaska Women's Commission

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Funding for the Alaska Women's Commission is contained in the Office of the Governor budget. No additional funding is required.

Prepared by: Michael A. Nizich, Director *Man* Phone: 465-3616
Division: Division of Administrative Services Date: 1/12/89

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature] Date: 1/12/89
Agency: Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor

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

Original sponsors: Fahrenkamp, Sturgulewski,
Eliason, et al.

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 8 (Finance)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

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

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

10 * Section 1. AS 44.19.167(a) is amended to read:

11 (a) The members shall be appointed on a nonpartisan and nondis-
12 criminatory basis by the governor [WITHIN 60 DAYS OF OCTOBER 6, 1978].
13 The members shall be residents of the state. At least one member
14 shall be a person who manages a household that includes the person's
15 spouse and at least one child and [HOMEMAKER] who is not otherwise
16 employed. In making the appointments, the governor shall give due
17 consideration [SHALL BE GIVEN] to

18 (1) the recommendations made by civic organizations, wom-
19 en's organizations, educational and vocational groups, employer
20 groups, labor unions, church groups, homemakers' clubs and organiza-
21 tions, and other groups having an interest in the welfare [STATUS] of
22 women;

23 (2) statewide geographical representation of the commis-
24 sion; [AND]

25 (3) minority and low-income representation;

26 (4) representation of senior citizens, persons with dis-
27 abilities, and persons from a variety of occupational categories; and

28 (5) representation of persons with different marital sta-
29 tuses and persons with various numbers of children.

1 * Sec. 2. AS 44.19.167 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

2 (c) No more than three seats on the commission may be held by
3 persons who served on the commission before July 1, 1989. Except for
4 the representative of the attorney general's office who serves ex
5 officio, the governor may not appoint to the commission a person who
6 is

7 (1) a state employee;

8 (2) an employee of a legislator; or

9 (3) the parent, sibling, spouse, or child of the governor
10 or of a legislator.

11 * Sec. 3. AS 44.19.168 is amended to read:

12 Sec. 44.19.168. MEETINGS. [WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE APPOINTMENT
13 OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION, THE GOVERNOR SHALL CALL THE
14 FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMISSION.] A majority of the members consti-
15 tutes a quorum for conducting business and exercising the powers of
16 the commission. The commission shall meet at the call of the chair-
17 person, at the request of a majority of the members, or at a regularly
18 scheduled time as determined by a majority of the members.

19 * Sec. 4. AS 44.19.169 is amended to read:

20 Sec. 44.19.169. TERMS OF OFFICE. The term of office of each
21 member is three [FIVE] years. Terms shall be staggered. [INITIAL
22 TERMS SHALL BE THREE MEMBERS SERVING FOR ONE YEAR, THREE MEMBERS
23 SERVING FOR THREE YEARS, AND THREE MEMBERS SERVING FOR FIVE YEARS.] A
24 vacancy shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the
25 same manner as original appointments. A person may not serve more
26 than six consecutive years.

27 * Sec. 5. AS 44.19.171 is amended to read:

28 Sec. 44.19.171. PURPOSE. The purpose of the commission is to
29 [IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE PRELIMINARY STUDY ON

1 THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN ALASKA WHICH WAS MANDATED BY THE NINTH LEGISLA-
2 TURE, SECOND SESSION, UNDER CH. 99 SLA 1976, AND] improve the status
3 of women in the state [ALASKA] by conducting [FURTHER] research, by
4 servng as a referral service for information and education that will
5 help women avail themselves of existing resources to meet their needs,
6 and by making and implementing [ADDITIONAL] recommendations on the
7 opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women in the
8 state [ALASKA] including, but not limited to,

- 9 (1) education; [,]
- 10 (2) homemaking; [,]
- 11 (3) civil and legal rights; and [,]
- 12 (4) labor and employment.

13 * Sec. 6. AS 44.19.171 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

14 (b) When conducting research, acting as a referral service,
15 serving as a forum for ideas, and developing recommendations related
16 to the welfare of women, the commission shall solicit and consider
17 information and views from a variety of constituencies in order to
18 fully represent the broad spectrum of diversity that exists with
19 respect to possible approaches for meeting women's needs in the state.

20 * Sec. 7. AS 44.66.010(a)(12) is amended to read:

21 (12) Alaska Women's Commission -- June 30, 1993 [1987];

22 * Sec. 8. EXTENSION OF INTERIM COMMISSION. The termination date of the
23 Interim Women's Commission established by the governor under Administrative
24 Order No. 110 is extended to June 30, 1989.

25 * Sec. 9. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS. (a) The members of the Alaska
26 Women's Commission appointed by the governor to serve terms of office
27 beginning on July 1, 1989, shall serve initial terms under AS 39.05.055(7),
28 as determined by the governor.

29 (b) The Alaska Women's Commission reestablished by this Act is a

1 continuation of the Interim Women's Commission except as otherwise specif-
2 ically addressed by this Act.

3 * Sec. 10. Section 8 of this Act is retroactive to the date of adjourn-
4 ment of the First Regular Session of the Sixteenth Alaska State Legisla-
5 ture.

6 * Sec. 11. Sections 8 and 10 of this Act take effect immediately under
7 AS 01.10.070(c).

8 * Sec. 12. Except for secs. 8 and 10 of this Act, this Act takes effect
9 July 1, 1989.

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A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY BROWN

TO: CSSB 8 (Finance) am

Page 1, line 11:

Delete "[NONPARTISAN AND]"

Insert "nonpartisan and"

Page 1, line 13, to page 1, line 19:

Delete "The governor shall appoint at least two members of each of the two political parties whose candidate for governor received the highest number of votes in the most recent preceding general election at which a governor was elected. The appointees from each of these two parties shall be chosen from a list of names to be submitted by the central committee of each party."

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY BARNES

TO: CSSB 8(Finance) am

Page 1, line 19:

Delete "homemaker"

Insert "person who manages a household that includes the person's spouse and at least one child and [HOMEMAKER]"

Page 1, line 25:

Delete "status and welfare"

Insert "welfare [STATUS]"

Page 1, line 28:

Delete "and"

Insert "[AND]"

Page 1, line 29, after "representation":

Insert new paragraphs to read:

"i

(4) representation of senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and persons from a variety of occupational categories; and

(5) representation of persons with different marital statuses and persons with various numbers of children"

Page 1, after line 29:

Insert a new bill section to read:

"* Sec. 2. AS 44.19.167 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(c) No more than three seats on the commission may be held by persons who served on the commission before July 1, 1989. Except for the representative of the attorney general's office who serves ex officio, the governor may not appoint to the commission a person who is

(1) a state employee;

(2) an employee of a legislator; or

(3) the parent, sibling, spouse, or child of the governor or of a legislator."

Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

Page 2, line 22, after "research":

Insert ", by serving as a referral service for information and education that will help women avail themselves of existing resources to meet their needs,"

Page 2, after line 29:

Insert a new bill section to read:

"* Sec. 6. AS 44.19.171 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(b) When conducting research, acting as a referral service, serving as a forum for ideas, and developing recommendations related to the welfare of women, the commission shall solicit and consider

information and views from a variety of constituencies in order to fully represent the broad spectrum of diversity that exists with respect to possible approaches for meeting women's needs in the state."

Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

Page 3, line 14:

Delete "6"

Insert "8"

Page 3, line 17:

Delete "6 and 8"

Insert "8 and 10"

Page 3, line 19:

Delete "6 and 8"

Insert "8 and 10"

A M E N D M E N T # 2

BY REP. BROWN

TO: CS SB 8 (Finance)

Page 1, Lines 13-18:

Delete: "The governor shall appoint at least two members of each of the two political parties whose candidate for governor received the highest number of votes in the most recent preceding general election at which a governor was elected. The appointees from each of these two parties shall be chosen from a list of names to be submitted by the central committee of each party."

Testimony by Ruth Lister, Executive Director, Alaska Women's Commission - January, 1989

The Alaska Women's Commission serves women by developing research on women's issues, by recommending solutions to the problems encountered by women, by publishing documents and handbooks to inform women, and by conducting conferences to aid women, both individually and collectively, in their struggle for equality. These are the three main functions: research, advocacy and education.

Why do we need to research issues such as the economic impact of divorce and dissolution on women or review the Alaska Statutes for sex discrimination or monitor compliance with Title IX and Alaska Chapter 18 laws? Because our data clearly substantiate that women have not achieved equal legal, economic, social and political status in Alaska.

Women comprise 51% of the workforce in Alaska, the second highest in the nation, but earn less than two thirds of what men earn. Most women have no access to parental leave after the birth of a child, a critical time for bonding to help ensure the child's future welfare. For many Alaskan families child care is either inadequate or too costly. An estimated 1/3 of Alaskan women are or have been victims of domestic violence, rape or child sexual abuse, often seriously affecting their job productivity, family and emotional well-being. The divorce rate in Alaska is 63% compared with a national average of 47%. Women's per capita income declines 33% after divorce while divorced men's increases 17%. In addition, the overall economic decline in Alaska is seriously impacting women, particularly single head of households. More than 20,000 women and children in Alaska receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

How do we advocate for change? The Commission, on the basis of our research and the needs voiced by women across the State, proposes and supports changes in legislation, regulations and public policy and funding of programs which assist women in achieving equity.

I have worked at the Commission now for a little over a month. For the last 7 1/2 years I ran a program for domestic violence and sexual assault victims, serving Fairbanks and, as much as we were able, villages in the Interior. Prior to that I ran a large day care center. While some women are being elected to public office, obtaining well paid management or technical jobs, their numbers are small. There are thousands of women in this State who are barely able to feed themselves and their children, who are fighting to maintain sobriety in life situations whose pain is enormous, who cannot stop working at their minimum wage jobs to get the degree which would improve their opportunities. Last week, a recently divorced woman with four children and no resources came to us asking for help in getting a small business going. Another woman, who had been in a battering relationship for 9 years and left with

all the bills, wanted to know if creditors would understand that she had not been able to see beyond her own survival and now wanted to try to clear her record. A woman called who had been running a volunteer mother's group for 4 years in a smaller community. The group provided outreach to isolated young mothers, giving them information on everything from crafts to child sexual abuse, an excellent form of early prevention and support. She wanted to know if there were any small grants to help pay for babysitters.

The question is not why women are on welfare, unable to get credit or living in abusive relationships. The question is why are there still educational and employment barriers to women, why is there insufficient support for women with families, both at work and home, why are women and children not safe in their own homes. I am always amazed and so proud of the courage and resourcefulness of women, of their hard work and their caring for others. Women do not choose to be poor, they do not choose to be hurt or feel badly about themselves.

We need to improve the economic status and employment options of women by assisting women to enter and re-enter the work force and to work in a wider variety of jobs. We need to implement changes that support working women who have children. The Commission will advocate for the needs of rural women, working with them to create more job opportunities and healthier communities.

We must value and support women's choices both at home and in the work force. Better access to health care, counseling, legal representation and personal safety are critical issues for many women. The Commission is committed to educational equity and to addressing the needs of teens and young women. Finally, women across the State must be given the opportunity through Boards and Commissions and through local and state government to help make the decisions which affect all of our lives.

By improving the status of women in Alaska, we will benefit all Alaskans, strengthening our families, communities and economy.

**Testimony by Ruth Lister
Executive Director
Alaska Women's Commission**

The Alaska Women's Commission serves women by developing research on women's issues, by recommending solutions to the problems encountered by women, by publishing documents and handbooks to inform women, and by conducting conferences to aid women, both individually and collectively, in their struggle for equality. These are the three main functions: research, advocacy and education.

I would like to give some examples of what the Women's Commission has done in the past. Perhaps most critical has been the research because this work has formed the documentation for legislative and policy change. For example, our study of pension equity led to a bill which required a spouse's signature if he/she was not the beneficiary of a State worker. This bill, which passed the legislature, helps to protect women who have been homemakers and so have limited or no personal resources for their old age. The research on divorce and dissolution, again the basis of a proposed bill, shows that after divorce women's per capita income declines 33% and men's increases 17%. With a divorce rate of 63% in Alaska, compared with 47% nationally, we cannot ignore the economic and emotional impact on family members. What happens if you stay home with your children and get "fired". You have no job training, no severance pay and no social security? More women now are not only entering but re-entering the job market than ever before. The Department of Labor reports that 65% of women over age 16 working, and women comprise 51% of the workforce in Alaska, yet women earn less than two thirds of what men earn, comparing year round, full-time work. Minority women earn relatively less.

The Commission has long been an advocate of quality, affordable child care both in homes and in centers. The difficulties in balancing work and family are huge and knowing your children are cared for by someone you are comfortable with is very important. The need for child care is not a question of conservative vs. liberal, it is a reality for thousands of working parents. We are in a culture that requires women to do the vital work of child rearing and at the same time devalues it. What is the cost of not adequately supporting women who work by providing good child care, parental leave, flexible work time, and adequate health care benefits? The cost is often seen later on and is much greater because the well being of children is strongly related to the well being of their parents.

A research study four years ago by the Commission on educational equity pointed out that we still have much to do in this area. In some previous testimony the concern was raised that educational equity means that boys would not become the men needed to lead the nation. What we are in fact addressing is changes in attitude and curriculum that will assist young women and minorities to become leaders, to be prepared for a wider diversity of jobs, to be proud of who they are and what they can be. Last week I participated in a statewide conference on educational equity, sponsored by the Department of Education and spurred by this study. In the workshops teachers clearly identified that educational inequity for girls and minorities is still very much a reality. The high dropout rate of urban, native teenagers can in part be addressed by meeting their needs in school.

An estimated 1/3 of Alaskan women are or have been victims of divorce, rape or child sexual abuse, often seriously affecting their job productivity, family and emotional well being. The Commission, early on, documented violence against women and children in Alaska and advocated for the formation of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, worked with shelters on regional workshops, and produced the Legal Rights Handbook which has been widely used by the shelters. We are now in the process of revising and reprinting this handbook. Women who have been living in abusive relationships and choose to leave often have not been working. For many, even going to a job interview is more than they can do without help. It is these women, women on AFDC, women who are single parents in low paying jobs with inadequate training for advancement, young women who have dropped out of school and don't believe they can achieve, older women with few resources, unemployed women in villages, women who are victims of violence, these women may not testify that changes are needed but clearly their needs must be heard and the roots of problems that are putting women in poverty or abusive relationships must be addressed.

I also agree that the needs of many women who have testified must be heard. I started this job a little over two months ago. Having worked in the shelters, I am very aware of how difficult it can be for many women to testify at public hearings and that women with differing opinions and needs would hear each other better in smaller forums. In December, for example, we set up a forum for women who are pro-life and pro-choice activists to talk with each other. There was a surprising amount of common ground. The forum gave an opportunity for the people involved to really talk about this very complex issue. I am committed to continuing to enable women to articulate their concerns and participate in the solutions.

The Commission drafted this year a long term plan, a copy of which is in your packet. There is still much work to be done.

Page 3

We need to improve the economic status and employment options of women by assisting women to enter and re-enter the work force and to work in a wider variety of jobs. We need to implement changes that support working women who have children. The Commission will advocate for the needs of rural women, working with them to create healthier communities.

We must value and support women's choices both at home and in the work force. Better access to health care, counseling, legal representation and personal safety are critical issues for many women. The Commission is committed to educational equity and to addressing the needs of teens and young women. Finally, women across the State must be given the opportunity through Boards and Commissions and through local and state government to help make the decisions which affect all of our lives.

By improving the status of women in Alaska, we will benefit all Alaskans, strengthening our families, communities and economy.

Statement of DOVE KULL advocating a Women's Commission

The need of Alaska for a Women's Commission reminds me of a saying of my Grandmother, which went something like --

"Man who objects to being born of woman may have been like a buzzard who laid an egg on a post to be hatched by the hot sun."

For Alaska this saying might have to be modified to: man who objects to being born of woman may be like a raven's egg covered with ice and snow which doesn't hatch even with the summer sun.

Therefore, the Women's Commission should be available for ALL Alaskans to help those who have trouble understanding the many problems faced by our women who are our neighbors, friends and family.

I strongly urge the immediate extension and authorization of the Women's Commission.

FY 90 ACTIVITIES PROPOSED BY ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION**EDUCATION:**

Statewide Women's Conference: topics to include health, substance abuse recovery, homemakers, legal rights, balancing work and family, personal safety, starting small businesses, women in non-traditional jobs.

Workshops in 4 rural communities.

Minority Women's Leadership Conference.

Provide workshops on request at 6 conferences or trainings sponsored by other organizations and agencies in Alaska.

Revise and reprint Legal Rights Handbook.

RESEARCH:

Impact of changes in child support guidelines and enforcement.

Extend divorce/dissolution study to rural communities.

Minority women's papers: an historical perspective.

Young women who drop out of school: causes and recommendations.

Teenage pregnancy: recommendations to address needs.

Update data on women in the workforce.

Convene advisory groups of women around the state to solicit input on issues affecting women.

ADVOCACY:

Increased minority female hire in State jobs, especially in rural Alaska.

Increased availability of flexible and part-time work, and parental leave.

Welfare Reform: creating positive options for women on AFDC enabling them to move into the workforce.

Educational equity in Alaska's schools through teacher training and curriculum materials.

Divorce/dissolution legislation.

Student loans for part-time students. Encourage female participation in programs that result in jobs which provide economic self-sufficiency and opportunities for advancement.

Increased number of women on Boards and Commissions.

ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION

The budget of the Women's Commission is composed of three parts:

	221.9	General Funds
	11.2	I/A Receipts
	<u>36.0</u>	Program Receipts
Total	\$269.1	

GENERAL FUNDS:

An increase of \$4.8 thousand in general funds over FY 89 is requested for benefits increase (health insurance) and is the same for all state employees. The FY 90 budget represents a decrease of 34% over the FY 86 budget of \$337.0 thousand in general funds. This decrease necessitated the loss of one staff person and reduction of funds for printing Commission publications, research and travel in Alaska. The FY 90 budget will fund 3 staff: an Executive Director, Range 23, an Information Officer, Range 17, and a Secretary, Range 10. Funds also provide for three meetings per year for ten Commission members, staff travel to communities in Alaska to provide workshops and hear concerns of women, preparation and printing of publications, limited contractual work for specific areas of expertise required for research and training, office supplies, equipment rentals, and telephone and teleconference costs.

INTERAGENCY RECEIPTS:

The Women's Commission provides a half-time clerical training position through Older Alaskans Commission Title V funding.

PROGRAM RECEIPTS:

The Commission proposes to apply to private foundations for \$30,000. If we are successful, this funding will enable the Commission to provide a statewide conference. An additional \$6,000 in program receipts is projected from the sale of publications and donations. This money will be used for printing as several publications are now out of print. The Women's Commission is one of the few State agencies that has sought and received private funding in the past.



NEA-ALASKA

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

ANCHORAGE REGIONAL OFFICE

1411 W. 33RD AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503
(907) 274-0536

JUNEAU OFFICE

105 MUNICIPAL WAY, SUITE 302
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(907) 586-3090

FAIRBANKS REGIONAL OFFICE

2118 CUSHMAN STREET
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
(907) 456-4435

February 14, 1989

To: Representatives Ron Larson and Lyman Hoffman,
Co-Chairs, and
Members, House Finance Committee

Re: HB 56 and SB 8; "Alaska Women's Commission"

NEA-Alaska strongly supports and encourages your favorable consideration of HB 56 and SB 8.

The Alaska Women's Commission is an essential entity and must be continued if the commitment to the eventual elimination of all forms of discrimination in our State is to be meaningful.

Their responsibilities in the areas of research, education, and advocacy are not being effectively performed by any other organization or agency of government.

History has clearly demonstrated too many times and in too many different ways that discrimination for whatever reason is acceptable until some group or organization has the means and resource to raise the collective conscience of society. Discrimination against women can and must be eliminated. The Alaska Women's Commission is essential if we are to attain that goal.

We urge that you look beyond their budget and staffing level which is extremely modest by any standard and consider these bills on their merit and importance to all Alaskans.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Manners
Executive Secretary

cc: Governor Steve Cowper
Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp

Health Care (Cont.)

Midwifery

Law passed, but no regulations developed for licensing, no insurance.

Develop regulations that allow the practice and the ability to be covered by insurance.

Research and advocate.

Health Care

Inadequate health care for many women, particularly older women.

Adequate health care for all.

Research and advocate for implementation.

Education

Legal Rights Handbook

Out of print.

Revised and printed.

Revise and print. Add health rights sections. Develop Public Service Announcements on legal rights.

Alienation of Homemakers

Segment of homemakers who feel alienated.

Positive recognition of homemakers.

Develop brochure that includes supportive resources and brings positive message about choices.

Education of Younger Women on Equality Issues

Lack of understanding of women's history.

Educated and aware.

Classroom, school papers, sex equity and curriculum development.

Gender Stereotyping

Stereotyping continues.

Elimination of stereotyping.

Develop Public Service Announcements and brochure.

Lack of Political Representation

Unequal political representation.

Equal representation.

Legislation on gender balance. Redistribution of "Making a Difference".

Assertiveness & Empowerment

High rate of violence in relationships. Rural women have no access to training in self esteem.

Breaking cycle of violence, gaining self esteem, assertiveness.

Coordinate with Board of Education, Interim Commission on Children and Youth, Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault Council and State Office of Alcohol and Drug Addiction.

Economic Equity

Equity in Divorce/Dissolution
Pending bill.

Passage of bill.

Passage of bill and education through video and brochure.

Feminization of Poverty

(See Welfare Reform
Administrative Review
Pay Equity)

Displaced Homemakers

Lack of services. Lack of data on homemakers.

Comprehensive program of services.

Research and advocacy.

Rural Women

Data Base

No data base.

Data base.

Research. Develop a standardized survey that volunteers conduct. Decennial census.

Isolation

Lack of access to needed services. Lack of jobs.

Access to training, services, job opportunities.

Regional training and conferences. Work with women and regional corporations to advocate change.

ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION
LONG RANGE PLANNING

PROBLEM/ISSUE PRESENT STATUS	IDEAL STATUS	LONG RANGE OBJECTIVE
<u>Employment</u>		
Pay Equity Women earn approximately 62% of male earnings.	100% comparable worth.	Update research, advocate implementation, continue education.
Affirmative Action Losing ground, Office of E.E.O. & Human Rights involved with enforcement.	Employment for percent of population who are qualified.	Education. Advocacy to locate qualified persons. Research on affirmative action in private sector.
Parental Leave Available up to nine weeks unpaid in State employment. Sporadic in private sector.	Parental leave available for women and men.	Advocate for parental leave legislation. Education for private sector.
Employment Practices in Private Sector Women under-represented in management and non-traditional jobs.	Employment equity.	Education. Assist women to obtain management and non-traditional jobs.
Unavailability of Part-Time, Flexible Work Lack policy, nothing uniform.	A policy in public and private sector that permits job shering.	Research and education.
<u>Watch Dog</u>		
Title IX Underfunded and poorly monitored according to Commission study.	Sex Equity in education. State funding for monitoring and program development.	Establish a formal relationship with Boards of Education & Regents. Request status report from each board.
Court System Inequitable sentencing for women. Inequitable employment of women in court related jobs.	Equity in judicial process for litigants and agents of court.	Research required.
Administrative Review of Regulations and Policies	Gender neutral in language and impact.	Address specific areas of regulations where the potential impact to women is the greatest.
Welfare System Pending reforms. Present system promotes single families and dependence on government.	System that takes care of people's needs but doesn't foster dependency.	Advocate welfare system that empowers women.
Gender Balance on Boards & Commissions	Equal representation on all municipal and state boards.	Solicit women to serve on boards and commissions. Legislation requiring equal representation.
<u>Health</u>		
Fertility Insurance Coverage Presently no coverage.	Insurance coverage.	Review legislation and advocate change.



Alaska Women:

R E S O U R C E S

PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

- Annual Report. A review of the major accomplishments of the Women's Commission from January 1, 1987 to December 31, 1987. 1987
- Directory of Women's Organizations. Statewide directory of women's organizations. 1987
- Family Equity at Issue: A Study of the Economic Consequences of Divorce on Women and Children. Results of research on economics of divorce in Alaska. 1987
- Making a Difference: A Primer for Women in Public Life. A handbook for political involvement. Includes information on campaign planning, voter contact, and working with volunteers. 1986
- Women in Prison: Does the Justice System Do Them Justice? A report on the current status of female offenders in Alaska and the United States. 1986
- Regional Conferences 1986. Activities and recommendations from the rural women's conferences funded by the Commission in 1986 - Bethel, Kuslika, Sitka, and Wasilla. 1986
- Commitment or Complacency: An assessment of sex equity in Alaska's educational institutions with recommendations for future action. 1986
- A Review of the Alaska Statutes for Sex Discrimination. Final report of the comprehensive review of Alaska Statutes to determine sex discrimination. 1985
- A Sense of History: A reference Guide to Alaska's Women 1896 - 1985. An annotated bibliography of books, articles, audio visual aids, and photo displays about Alaska Women in history. 1985
- Alaska Women: A Databook. Profile of Alaska women based upon the 1980 Census, includes statistical appendix. 1984
- Women in Labor Unions: Seminar Report. 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. 1984
- Women's Legal Rights in Alaska. Outlines legal rights affecting women in Alaska. 1984
- Profiles in Change: Names, Notes and Quotes for Alaskan Women. Stories about Alaskan women who have contributed to the state's economic, social, and political development. 1983
- Report on the Economic Status of Alaska Native Women. Results of the study on the economic status of Alaska Native women with recommended actions to improve their economic status. 1983
- Study of the Report on the Economic Status of Alaska Native Women. Summary of above report. 1983
- POSTERS:**
- Families - A Shared Experience
- Be What You Want to Be
- Women: Alaska Women's Commission
- Women in Alaska History. A Timeline of Famous Alaskan Women

BROCHURES & FACT SHEETS:

- Highlights of the Alaska Women's Commission.** Historical summary of events, activities and actions of the Women's Commission. 1987
- Summary of Family Equity at Issue: A Study on the Economic Consequences of Divorce on Women and Children.** 1987
- Alaska Women & Education.** A review of Title IX and Alaska's Chapter 18 educational equity legislation. 1985
- Alaska Women & Insurance.** Summary information on insurance discrimination in Alaska and the nation. 1985
- Alaska Women & Pensions.** Summary of federal reform legislation on private pension plans and its effect upon women in Alaska and in the nation. 1985
- Alaska Women's Commission.** Describes the purpose of the Commission and its current activities. 1984
- Alaska Women: A Profile.** Summary information on the economic, educational, and family status of Alaska women. 1984
- Alaska Women in Politics.** Summary information on growth of women's participation in politics in Alaska and in the nation. 1984

More Highlights . . .

1985 - Alaska Women's Commission organizes Legislative Alliance for Women Statewide (LAWS), a coalition of 15 statewide women's organizations whose purpose is to analyze and take positions on legislation, monitor budget and policy decisions which have direct impact on women's lives.



1985-1986 - On behalf of the Commission, seven bills are introduced by the Governor which have a significant economic impact on women. Three of the bills pass.

1986 - Commission works with state government to initiate an expanded register to increase the hiring of women in ranges 18 and above.

1986 - Court system and the Commission work together to revise forms for marital dissolutions so that lay people can more easily understand their rights and obligations.



1986 - Commission evaluates implementation of Alaska's sex equity in education law, Chapter 18. Results are published in *Commitment or Complacency: An Assessment of Sex Equity in Alaska's Educational Institutions*.

1986 - Four hundred rural women in attendance at four regional Commission sponsored conferences in Bethel, Huslia, Sitka, Wasilla. A report is published summarizing the events and recommendations.

1986 - Two leadership seminars are conducted by the Commission. Held in Juneau, the seminar "Women in Prison" provides policy makers with an overview of issues surrounding the Alaskan female prison population. In Fairbanks, "Making a Difference: A Primer for Women in Public Life" provides training session for women considering running for public office. A handbook for political involvement is issued following seminar and is mailed to 1700 women.

1986 - Commission produces 30 public service announcements for television and radio profiling Alaskan women and their accomplishments. Profiles play throughout the state on commercial and public radio and television during March, Women's History Month.

1986 - Women's history timeline poster is produced by the Commission and sent to all schools, libraries and to every social studies teacher in the state.

1986 - Commission member serves on state Commission on Child Support Enforcement, providing governor with findings and recommendations to make child support more uniform and equitable.

1987 - Commission co-sponsors Female Minority Leadership Conference with Anchorage School District. Commission member serves as program chair.

1987 - Commission targets efforts to improve family equity. Conducts research on the economic impact of divorce on women and children. At the request of the Commission, legislation is again introduced by the Governor to ensure that career assets are considered marital property and to provide for heightened judicial scrutiny of dissolution cases.

1987 - Commission sponsors seminars in Anchorage and Juneau on the state Human Services Budget and the impacts of cuts on women and children. Legislators, policy makers, providers and advocates participate.

1987 - March, Women's History Month, is again commemorated with Commission-produced television and radio profiles aired statewide throughout the month.

1987 - Services to rural women are highlight of Commission-sponsored seminar in Bethel.

1987 - Legal Rights for Women, a day-long conference with a broad spectrum of workshops, is produced in Anchorage by Commission. Nearly 125 people participate.

1987 - HB4 and SB89, companion bills to extend the Alaska Women's Commission to 1991, are introduced. HB4 is sponsored by Representatives Davis, Koponen, Ulmer, Ellis, Brown and Donley. SB89 is sponsored by the Governor.

Highlights...

In Alaska Women's Commission History

1977 - *The Status of Women in Alaska* identified numerous problems confronting women in Alaska and recommended the formation of a women's commission to implement the recommendations contained in the study.

1977 - Statewide conference honoring International Women's Year is convened in Anchorage. 1,000 women in attendance. Conference recommendations include the need to establish a women's commission to address widespread discrimination.

1978 - Tenth Alaska Legislature passes HB303, creating the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women. Bill is sponsored by Rep. Lisa Rudd. On July 8, 1978, governor signs bill into law. Ten Commissioners appointed October 1978.

1979 - Public hearings conducted by the Commission are held on violence against women, sex bias in education, welfare, and displaced homemakers.

1979 - Commission conducts research on the status of homemakers in Alaska.

1979 - Commission develops training manuals and "how-to" guides on assertiveness training, applying for foundation funding and sex equity in education.

1980 - Status reports written and presented by Commission on child support enforcement, displaced homemakers and battered women.

1980 - Commission convenes task force on "Violence Against Alaska Native Women." Report and recommendations are forwarded to the governor for action.

1980 - Commission sponsors two conferences: Voices of Black Women in Alaska, second Alaska Native Women's Statewide Organization Conference.

1980 - Legislation on displaced homemakers and domestic violence is supported by the Commission. Domestic violence legislation passes into law.

1981 - *Women's Legal Rights in Alaska* is published by the Alaska Women's Commission. Over 5,000 copies distributed.



1981 - Commission sponsors five regional conferences: Filipino Alaskan Women's Network Conference in Anchorage; "Piqatigich" a conference held in Kotzebue to discuss sharing together; Women of Hoonah meet to discuss "Community Concerns"; Kenai women discuss "Action or Reaction"; conferences on communication and roles of women in the village held in Fairbanks and Galena are conducted by ANWSO-Doyon Region, Tanana Chiefs and WIC-CA.

1981 - Commission holds hearings on "Women in Construction" to identify employment opportunities and potential barriers during construction of the proposed gas pipeline.



1981 - Commission forms task force on "Women and Corrections" and advocates improved facilities and programming for female inmates.

1981 - Commission coordinates meeting of lieutenant governor with major women's organizations in the state to discuss policies affecting women's equality.

1981 - Commission backed bill, "Mini Title IX" becomes law in Alaska. The bill (SB99) prohibits sex discrimination in education. Four other bills supported by the Commission are also passed into law which encompass domestic violence and sexual assault, child care assistance, child support enforcement, insurance coverage of midwives.

1981 - The governor proclaims Women's History Week, March 8-14.

1982 - Alaska Women's Commission testifies before State Human Rights Commission and Blue Ribbon Commission on Personnel regarding changes to the state's personnel system which would make it more equitable and accessible to women.

1982 - Alaska Women's Commission responds to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding affirmative action goals for hire on proposed natural gas pipeline.

STATUS REPORT is published by the Alaska Women's Commission. The Commission was established in 1978 to improve the status of Alaska women through research and advocacy. Its members are appointed by the Governor on staggered five-year terms. Commission members serve on a voluntary basis and at the pleasure of the Governor. They include Kris Chatfield, Chair, Joy Green-Armstrong, Vice Chair, Loretta Bullard, Marcia Johnson, Pat Kennedy, Mary Pete, Betty Ramage, Wendy Redman, and Paula Ziegler. For further information about the Commission, contact us at 3601 'C' St., Suite 742, Anchorage, AK 99503 (907) 561-4227. Christine Callahan, Executive Director, Barbara Baker, newsletter editor.

More Highlights...



"Communicating" woodcut print used with permission of Polly Lee.

1982 - Commission sponsors a statewide women's conference "Alaska's Women: Determining Our Futures". Attendance reaches nearly 1,000 people from all over Alaska.

1982 - Commission develops media campaign on sex role stereotyping which airs on television throughout the state.

1982 - Assists the Department of Education in drafting regulations for the implementation of sex equity in education law.

1982 - Commission is appointed to the Equity Coordinating Council for Alaska to assist school districts with implementation of new sex equity law.

1982 - Co-sponsors "Women and Alcohol" Conference with the state Office on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

1982 - Sponsors seminar on "Women in the Political Process" in Kodiak.

1982 - Commission forms Health Task Force to define women's health needs. A statewide teleconference is held on the issue and Commission acts upon recommendations.

1982 - Commission makes recommendations concerning 40 pieces of legislation pending before Alaska State Legislature and the U.S. Congress.

1982 - Alaska Legislature and the governor proclaim March, Women's History Month.

1982 - Commission co-sponsors conference with U.S. Women's Bureau on "Women in Apprenticeship."

1982 - A regional conference in Barrow is sponsored by the Commission.

1982 - Commission releases *Five Years Later*, a status report on the recommendations contained in *A Preliminary Study: The Status of Women in Alaska, 1977*.

1982 - SB63, a bill to permanently establish the Alaska Women's Commission, passes the legislature and is signed into law by the governor. Senators V. Fisher, Rodey and Sturgulewski sponsor bill.

1983 - Three posters, targeted at school children encouraging them to explore all of their talents and interests, are produced by the Commission and sent to schools statewide.

1983 - Commission publishes brochure for Women's History Month that suggests activities and projects suitable for classroom setting. Brochures are sent to schools statewide.

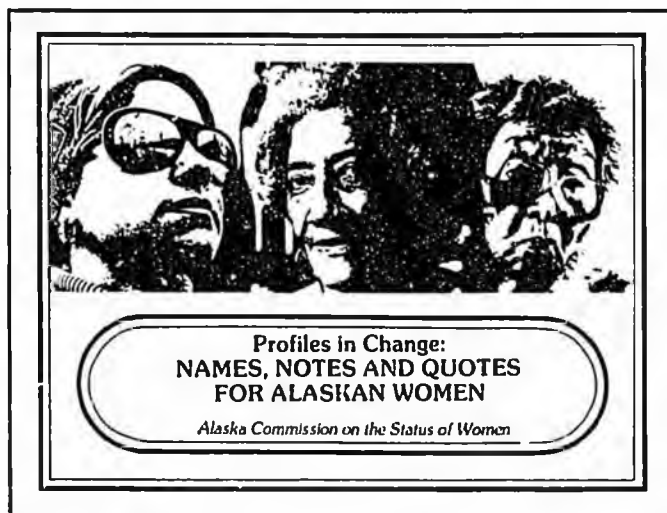
1983 - A comprehensive study on the *Economic Status of Alaska Native Women* is conducted and published by the Commission.

1983 - Public service announcements regarding non-traditional employment opportunities, fetal alcohol syndrome and non-sexist language are produced by the Commission and aired on statewide television.

1983 - Six conferences and seminars are sponsored by the Commission; in Fairbanks "Making the System Work for You"; in Juneau, "Southeast Alaska Women's Leadership Conference"; in Ketchikan "Work and Network: Southeast Alaska's Immediate Future for Women"; in Anchorage "The Future of Alaska-Protecting Human Resources as Industry Grows"; in Kodiak "Women as Managers and Decision Makers," in Anchorage "Pay Equity/Comparable Worth."

1983 - Commission reviews and critiques pilot edition of the Alaska History textbook.

1983 - Profiles of 60 Alaskan women who have contributed to the state's economic, social and political development are published by the Commission in *Profiles in Change - Names, Notes and Quotes for Alaskan Women*.



1984 - "Barriers to Employment Conference" is co-sponsored by the Alaska Women's Commission.

1984 - Written Biographies of 20 women in Alaska history are distributed by the Commission to statewide media for use during Women's History Month.

1984 - Commission sponsors "Labor Union Workshop" in Anchorage and publishes results of the conference.

1984 - A statewide *Directory of Women's Organizations* is released by the Commission.

1984 - *Alaska Women: A Databook*, a profile of Alaska Women based upon the 1980 census, is published by the Commission.

1984 - A revised edition of *Women's Legal Rights in Alaska* is published by the Commission. Over 5,000 copies distributed since its second release.

1984 - Commission co-sponsors and helps publish *Child Care Directories* for Anchorage, Juneau/Ketchikan and Fairbanks.

1984 - Local Women's Councils are established in Anchorage and Sitka with the assistance of the Alaska Women's Commission.

1984 - Commission supports ten bills in the legislature, five signed into law.

1984 - Workshop on "American Women: Three Decades of Change" is co-sponsored by the Commission with the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the state Dept. of Labor.

1984 - Commission conducts study on pension reform within the public employees retirement system and submits recommendations for legislative changes. Changes are adopted in 1985.

1984 - Native Women's Task Force convened by Commission to address employment issues within state government.

1984 - Commission testifies before legislative committee on improving women's economic conditions through expansion of business loans targeted at women owned businesses.

1984-86 - Commission serves on Sex Equity Advisory Committee of Anchorage School District.

1985 - Commission completes *Review of the Alaska Statutes for Sex Discrimination* which identifies over 80 discriminatory laws.

1985 - 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.

1985 - Commission works with the Department of Administration to increase recruitment and hiring of Native women.

1985 - Commission publishes *A Sense of History*, the first annotated bibliography of books, articles, audio-visual aids and photo displays about Alaska Women. Distributed to schools, libraries and all social studies teachers in the state.

1985 - Commission establishes third local women's council in Juneau.

1985 - Commission holds statewide women's conference in Anchorage on the economic status of women. "At the Edge of Opportunity" brought together more than 700 people from more than 30 communities.

1985 - A workshop on the United Nations Conference for Women is sponsored by the Commission and held in Anchorage.

1985 - A seminar on Equal Educational Opportunities for Girls is sponsored by the Commission in Wasilla.



Photo by Sabra McCracken

RESOURCES:

Community resources exist to assist people who are considering divorce. The following is a list of some of the agencies who provide legal assistance or counseling.

Legal Assistance:

Alaska Legal Services — Provides legal assistance to low income people. It also screens applicants for the Pro Bono Program which provides free legal assistance to low income people. "Do It Yourself" (Pro Se) Divorce Clinics are also conducted by Alaska Legal Services in some communities. Legal Services is located in Anchorage, Barrow, Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Nome, Unalaska.

Dispute Resolution Services, Fairbanks

Counseling and Support:

Women's Resource Centers are located in Anchorage, Barrow, Bethel, Cordova, Fairbanks, Homer, Kenai/Soldotna, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Nome and Wasilla.

Men's Support Network, Anchorage

Father's Rights Group, Fairbanks

RELATED RESEARCH ON DIVORCE:

Lenore Weitzman, *The Divorce Revolution: The Unexpected Social and Economic Consequences for Women and Children in America* (New York: The Free Press, 1986).

Heather Wishik, "Economics of Divorce: An Exploratory Study," *Family Law Quarterly*, Vol. 20, No. 1, Spring 1986.

California Senate Task Force on Family Equity (Sacramento, State of California, 1987).

S. Hoffman and T. Holmes, "Husbands, Wives, and Divorce," *Five Thousand American Families — Patterns of Economic Progress* (Ann Arbor, Michigan: Institute for Social Research, 1976).

William Goods, *After Divorce* (New York: The Free Press, 1956).



ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION

RESEARCH SUMMARY

October 1987

FAMILY EQUITY AT ISSUE: A Study of the Economic Consequences of Divorce on Women and Children

During the 1970's social reformers sought to ease the acrimony of divorce and create more fairness and equity for the families involved. "No fault" divorce reform was introduced in many states including Alaska. In addition, Alaska developed a dissolution procedure that allows people to file without the expense of an attorney. Unfortunately, many of these changes have had unintended economic results for women. It now appears that women and children are suffering major financial inequities as a direct result of some of the changes in divorce law and procedure.

The most striking documentation of the "downward mobility" of women and children created by "no fault" divorce was in the state of California. Because of the seriousness of the findings there, in 1986 the Alaska

Women's Commission undertook a study to determine if Alaskan women and children were suffering the same effects.

The study of divorce is important because so many people are affected by it. The divorce rate in Alaska is 63 percent compared to 46 percent nationally. More than 11,000 people are affected each year, 3,000 of them children. Even though the two-decade increase in the divorce rate seems to have peaked, each year thousands of Alaskan families are affected by divorce.

The study site chosen was Anchorage, where more than half of the state's divorces occur. A statistically valid sample drawn from all divorce and dissolution cases occurring in a one-year period was analyzed.



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

Members of Commission:

Kris Chatfield, chair
Anchorage
Joy Green-Armstrong, vice chair
Anchorage
Loretta Bullard
Nome
Elizabeth (Pat) Kennedy, Anchorage
Mary Pete, Bethel
Betty Ramage, Anchorage
Wendy Redman, Fairbanks
Paula Ziegler, Juneau

Executive Director
Christine Callahan

Research Analyst
Barbara Baker

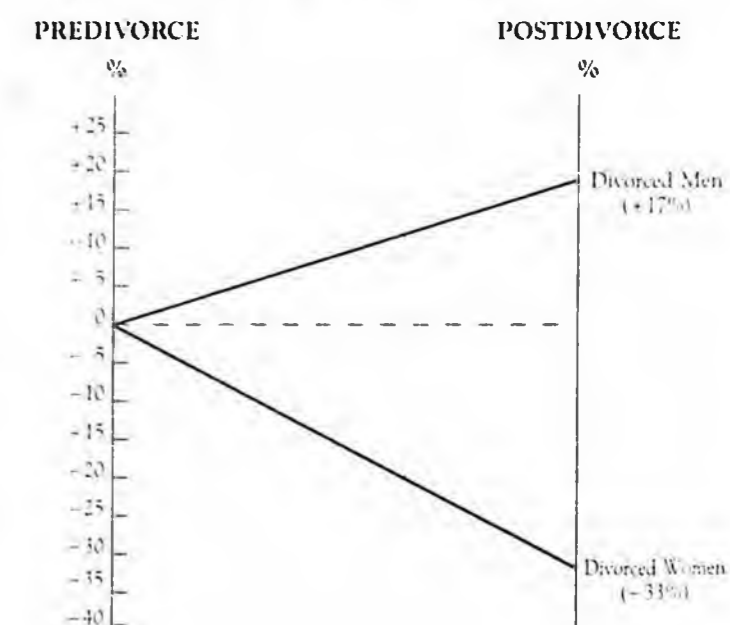
State of Alaska
Steve Cowper, Governor
Stephen McAlpine, Lt. Governor

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
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Anchorage, AK

GENERAL FINDINGS:

- In Alaska, divorce has substantially different economic consequences for women and men.
- Divorced women and their children experienced a 33 percent decline in per capita income resulting in a radical downward shift of their standard of living (see Figure 1). The greatest relative deprivation was experienced by women and children of middle and upper middle class families.
- Divorced men, however, experienced an improvement in their standard of living as a result of a 17 percent rise in their per capita incomes (see Figure 1).
- In many marriages the couple's major investments were in the education and career of the primary wage earner. Yet the division of marital property often excluded career assets. Disregarding this property allows the major wage earner, usually the husband, to keep what are often the most valuable assets of the marriage.

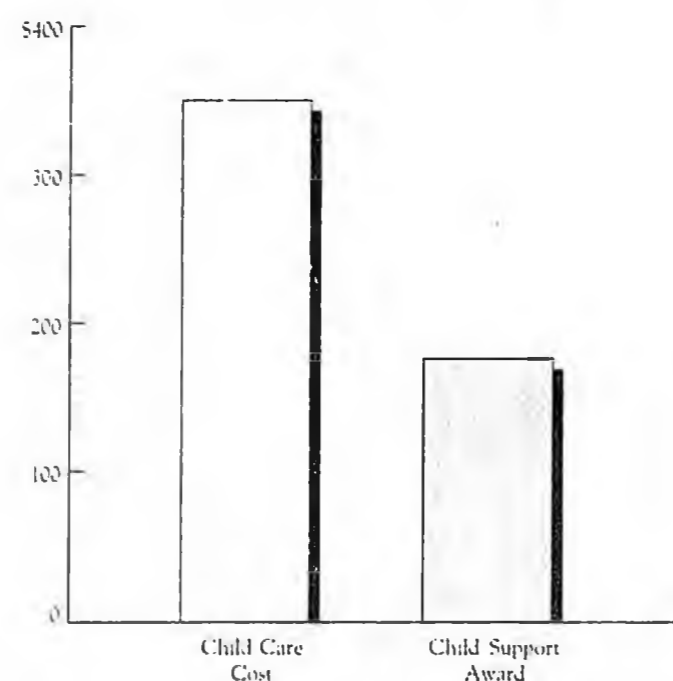
FIGURE 1: PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PER CAPITA INCOME OF DIVORCED MEN AND WOMEN



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

- Fifty-four percent of divorcing men had pensions compared to 33 percent of divorcing women. The median value of the husband's pension was worth more than 3 times that of the wife's (\$27,500 and \$7,500 respectively). Yet, only 20 percent of the couples in the study divided pensions.
- Other types of career assets such as life insurance, paid leave, professional licenses, medical and dental insurance were rarely included in the division of property, even though they were acquired during the marriage.
- Award of the family home was influenced by the presence of children. In 74 percent of the cases, the home was given to the parent having physical custody. Fathers with physical custody almost always got the home (93 percent) while mothers with custody were awarded the family home only 68 percent of the time.
- Among the families who moved following divorce were accounts of children traumatized by the dislocation. New schools and neighborhoods increased the disruption already generated from economic and emotional distress.
- In the absence of children, husbands were awarded the family home and mortgage more frequently (60 percent) than wives (40 percent).
- Alimony was awarded in only 10 percent of the divorces surveyed. For the few who receive it, this "safety net" appears to be an illusion. Awards usually lasted for only one year and provided an average of only \$500 a month, despite the fact that most who received it had no job, no other income or were of an age which makes it difficult to find paid work.
- Divorced mothers are the primary caretakers of children. Sole custody was awarded to mothers in 58 percent of the cases, while fathers received it in 18 percent of the cases. Joint custody was awarded 19 percent of the time.
- Child support was awarded in 80 percent of the divorces where minor children were present. However, the average amount per child was \$191. This barely meets half the monthly cost of child care in Anchorage today (see Figure 2). This figure also falls below the standard used to determine eligibility for welfare.
- Cost of living increments were included in only 23 percent of the child support awards. Without these adjustments, the purchasing power of the support award continually declines because of inflation and the increased costs associated with older children.
- Only 22 percent of child support awards were written beyond the age of majority although financial burdens such as education continue for several years beyond this point.

FIGURE 2: AVERAGE MONTHLY COST OF CHILD CARE COMPARED TO AVERAGE MONTHLY CHILD SUPPORT AWARD



- Only 58 percent of the people in the survey received the full amount of child support awarded. This is consistent with statewide data from the Child Support Enforcement Agency.
- Divorced men are rarely required to pay more than 15 percent of their predivorce income to support their children.

IMPACT OF DISSOLUTION:

In Alaska people can end their marriage in two ways. Both are considered "no-fault." One, a divorce, usually involves attorneys' fees and court hearings, with the judge making a final decision in areas where the two parties cannot agree. The other, a dissolution, can be done without attorneys, with minimal expense, and requires that both parties agree about every issue. About two-thirds of all Alaskan couples who end their marriages choose a dissolution.

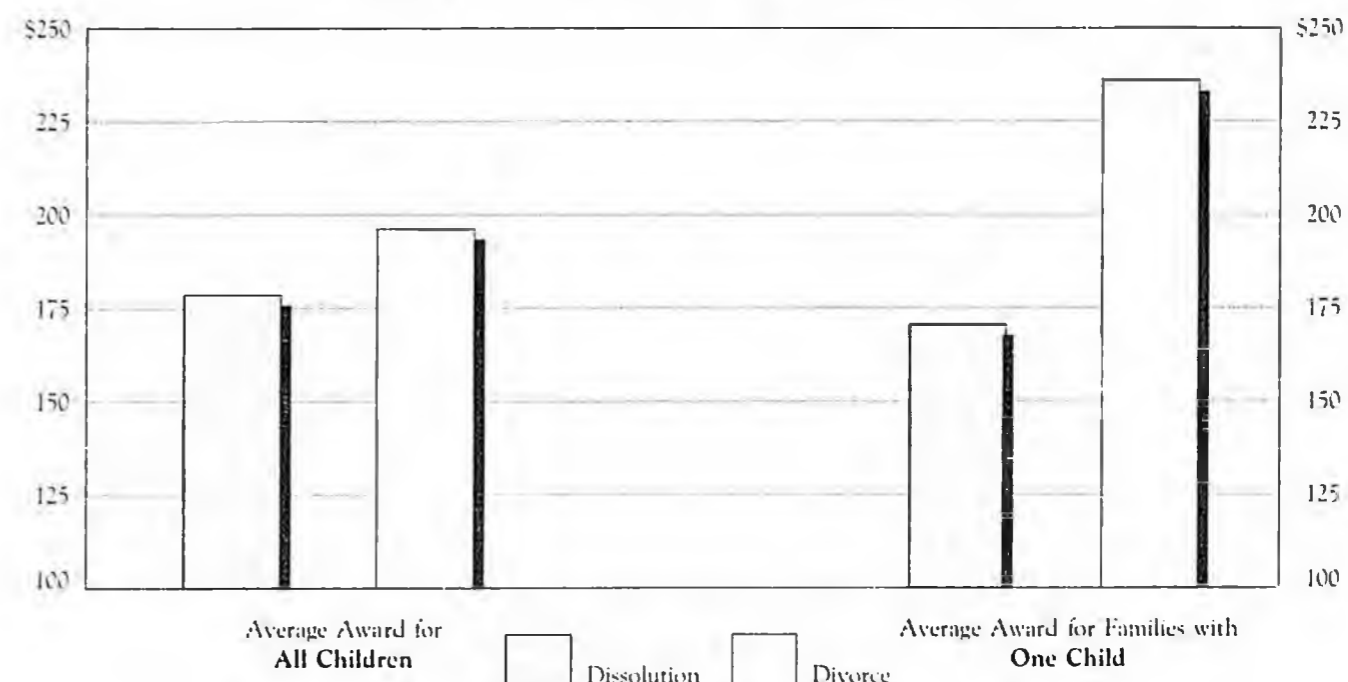
Alaska is one of only 8 states that permit dissolutions. It is also one of the most liberal in its provisions. Most

other states do not permit dissolutions if there are minor children, if the marriage is one of long duration, or if the couple has property. Alaska law places no limitations on the use of dissolutions.

In addition to the study's general findings, it appears that women who choose dissolution suffer even more financial hardship than women who go through a divorce.

- Women who used the dissolution procedure received far less than half of the couple's property. Wives received only 29 percent of the property in dissolutions. Women who used divorce received 50 percent of the marital property.
- Child support awards were lower when the dissolution procedure was used. Particularly hard hit were families with one child where average awards were 27 percent lower than in divorce (see Figure 3).

FIGURE 3: AVERAGE MONTHLY CHILD SUPPORT AWARD FOR ALL CHILDREN AND ONE CHILD FAMILIES BY LEGAL PROCEDURE



SUMMARY:

The findings of this study together with a growing body of research suggest that the current legal system of divorce creates economic hardships for women and children instead of providing greater family equity. Inadequate and poorly enforced child support awards, the near absence of spousal support, and unequal division of marital property are creating a new class of poor.

Divorced women and their children face a precipitous drop in family income. Some face certain impoverishment. Women who choose the dissolution procedure suffer even more financial hardship than those who go through a divorce.

The Alaska Women's Commission was created to ensure equity for women in Alaska. The Commission's current legislative platform attempts to correct many of the inequities that occur under existing divorce laws. The findings of the Commission's study support these efforts.

The report was written by Barbara Baker, research analyst for the Alaska Women's Commission. For a copy of the full report or for more information about the Commission's legislative advocacy, research efforts and educational services, please contact the Commission office at 3601 "C" Street, Suite 742, Anchorage, Alaska 99501 or call 561-4227.

STATE OF ALASKA **BILL VERSION: CSSB 8 (FIN)**
1989 LEGISLATIVE SESSION **PUBLISH DATE: 2/3/89**
FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST: _____

REVISION DATE: _____ AGENCY: OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
 TITLE: ACT RELATING TO THE BRU: COMMISSIONS/SPEC.OFFICES
ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION
 SPONSOR: FAHRENKAMP, STURGULEWSKI COMPONENTS: ALASKA WOMEN'S
 REQUESTOR: SENATE FINANCE COMMISSION

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
OPERATING						
PERS. SERVICES	163.2	163.2	163.2	163.2	163.2	163.2
TRAVEL	28.7	28.7	28.7	28.7	28.7	28.7
CONTRACTUAL	73.7	73.7	73.7	73.7	73.7	73.7
SUPPLIES	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND/BUILD.	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRANTS/CLAIMS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	269.1	269.1	269.1	269.1	269.1	269.1
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

GENERAL FUNDS	221.9	221.9	221.9	221.9	221.9	221.9
GF/PRGM	36.0	36.0	36.0	36.0	36.0	36.0
I/A RCPTS	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.2
TOTAL	269.1	269.1	269.1	269.1	269.1	269.1

POSITIONS:

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

ANALYSIS:

THE ABOVE FIGURES REFLECT THE GOVERNOR'S FY 90 BUDGET.

PREPARED BY: _____


SENATOR RICK UEHLING, CO-CHAIRMAN
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: FEBRUARY 3, 1989
 PHONE No.: 465-4821