

HCR 11

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred: March 20, 1991

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4-17-91

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HCR 11

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

ALASKA WOMEN'S TASK FORCE

Establishing the Alaska Women's Task Force.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

be replaced with _____ the same title
 a new title

have attached amendments(s)

do pass

do not pass

no recommendations

individual recommendations

additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

fiscal impact _____

fiscal note(s) LAA

zero fiscal note _____

zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
<i>[Signature]</i>	X	<i>Eileen P. Marken</i>		✓	
<i>[Signature]</i>	X	<i>Mike Spawne</i>		✓	
<i>[Signature]</i>	X	<i>[Signature]</i>	→		
<i>[Signature]</i>		<i>[Signature]</i>		✓	
		<i>[Signature]</i>		X	
		<i>[Signature]</i>	X		
		<i>[Signature]</i>	X		

Mike Spawne Eileen P. Marken
 CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11
 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
 SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES KOPONEN, Ulmer

Introduced: 2/27/91

Referred: State Affairs, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 Establishing the Alaska Women's Task Force.

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 WHEREAS the legislature recognizes the need for an official group to advise the legislature on
 4 how to improve the status of women in the state; and

5 WHEREAS the legislature also recognizes the need for an official group to do research and be
 6 a clearinghouse of information to help women make use of opportunities to improve their lives:

7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Alaska Women's Task Force is
 8 established to

9 (1) study and analyze all facts relating to Alaska laws, regulations, and guidelines with
 10 respect to equal protection for women under the state constitution;

11 (2) accumulate and compile information concerning discrimination against women;

12 (3) recommend legislative and administrative action on equal treatment and opportunities
 13 for women;

14 (4) act as a clearinghouse and coordinating body for governmental and nongovernmental
 15 information relating to the status of women;

16 (5) encourage women to use their capabilities at home and outside the home and to
 17 assume leadership roles when they desire them;

1 (6) encourage the development of regional and municipal women's councils or
2 commissions; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska Women's Task Force is composed of the president of
4 the senate or a member of the senate appointed by the president, the speaker of the house or a member
5 of the house appointed by the speaker, four members of the public appointed by the president of the
6 senate, and four members of the public appointed by the speaker of the house; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the president of the senate and the speaker of the house shall
8 coordinate their appointments in a manner that gives due consideration to

9 (1) the recommendations made by civic organizations, women's organizations, educational
10 and vocational groups, employer groups, labor unions, church groups, homemakers's clubs and
11 organizations, and other groups having an interest in the welfare and status of women;

12 (2) statewide geographical representation;

13 (3) minority and low-income representation;

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

16 (5) representation of persons with different marital statuses and persons with various
17 numbers of children; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, in order to achieve its purposes, the Alaska Women's Task Force
19 may

20 (1) cooperate with public and private agencies in joint efforts;

21 (2) hold public hearings, conferences, and seminars to gather information and views and
22 to disseminate the results of its research;

23 (3) solicit and accept monetary gifts or grants from the federal government or an agency
24 of it, from any charitable foundation or professional association, or from any other reputable sources;

25 (4) create additional task forces composed of commission members and other experts;

26 (5) select and retain the services of consultants and otherwise contract with persons to
27 assist the task force in its duties; contracts under this provision are governed by the procurement
28 procedures of the Alaska Legislative Council and are subject to the approval of the council;

29 (6) hire an executive director and additional administrative staff; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, as it performs its duties, the Alaska Women's Task Force shall
31 solicit and consider information and views from a variety of constituencies in order to represent the
32 broad spectrum of diversity that exists with respect to possible approaches for meeting women's needs

1 in the state: and be it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force may meet during and between sessions of the
3 legislature and is terminated upon the convening of the First Session of the Eighteenth Alaska State
4 Legislature.

FISCAL NOTE

No. 1

Bill Version: HCR 11

(H) Publish Date: 3/20/91

STATE OF ALASKA
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: _____
Title: Establishing the Alaska Women's
Task Force.
Sponsor: Representative Koponen
Requestor: House State Affairs

Department Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency
BRU: Legislative Council
Component: Council & Subcommittees

COMPONENT SERIAL NO: 783

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES	115.3	57.7	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	14.7	7.4	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	28.0	14.0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	1.0	.5	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	5.0	2.5	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	164.0	82.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	164.0	82.1	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	164.0	82.1	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	2	2	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact: _____

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The following is requested to adequately support the Alaska Women's Task Force:

Prepared By: Pamela A. Stoops, Director
Division: Administrative Services

Pamela A. Stoops

Phone: 465-3850
Date: 3/14/91

Approved By: Warren W. Endicott, Executive Director
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency

Warren W. Endicott

Date: 3/14/91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

COMMITTEE COPY

PERSONAL SERVICES

1. Staff is requested as follows to assist the Alaska Women's Task Force.

Secretary - Range 15A	
\$2,745 x 12 months =	\$32,940
\$32,940 x 42% benefits =	<u>\$13,987</u>
	\$46,927

Administrative Officer - Range 21A	
\$4,155 x 12 months =	\$49,860
\$49,860 x 37% benefits =	<u>\$18,567</u>
	\$68,427

115.3

TRAVEL

It is anticipated there will be 2 meetings of the 10 member Alaska Women's Task Force.

2 meetings x 10 members = 20 airfares	
20 airfares x \$436 = \$8,720	
2 days per diem x 20 = 40	
40 days x \$100 = 4,000	

12.7

Staff Travel - \$2,000

2.0

CONTRACTUAL

Advertising - advertising of public notice of meetings; Office Space and Professional Services - \$28,000.

28.0

SUPPLIES

Miscellaneous office supplies - \$1,000.

1.0

EQUIPMENT

Miscellaneous office and computer equipment - \$5,000.

5.0

COMMITTEE COPY

**Alaska State Legislature
Representative Niilo Koponen**

Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-4992

House District 21

119 N. Cushman, Suite 207
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 456-8172

POSITION PAPER

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 11
"Establishing the Alaska Women's Task Force"**

The Alaska Women's Commission was formed to conduct studies and make recommendations to the Legislature regarding the roles and status of Alaskan women. The Commission has fulfilled its mandate efficiently and effectively, concentrating on legislation, employment, civil and legal rights, and issues relating to the family. Contrary to popular perception, so-called "women's issues" are of critical concern to all Alaskans' issues such as day care, health care, equal treatment and opportunity, and personal freedom.

The Alaska Women's Commission has been the preeminent voice advocating attention to these vital concerns in Alaska. Now, the Hickel administration is working overtime to silence that voice.

In order to preserve the function of the Commission and to maintain an important link between Alaskan women and state lawmakers, I have proposed the creation of the "Alaska Women's Task Force," under the aegis of the Legislature. This Task Force would continue the work of the Commission, protected from the politically hazardous climate of the Governor's Office.

Alaska State Legislature
Representative Niilo Koponen

Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-4992

House District 21

119 N. Cushman, Suite 207
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 456-8172

SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Bill 170

"An Act establishing the Alaska Women's Commission in the legislative branch; abolishing the Alaska Women's Commission in the Office of the Governor; and providing for an effective date"

The Alaska Women's Commission was formed to conduct studies and make recommendations to the Legislature regarding the roles and status of Alaskan women. The Commission has fulfilled its mandate efficiently and effectively, concentrating on legislation, employment, civil and legal rights, and issues relating to the family. Contrary to popular perception, so-called "women's issues" are of critical concern to all Alaskans; issues such as day care, health care, equal treatment and opportunity, and personal freedom.

In 1990 alone, the Commission sponsored or co-sponsored many diverse workshops, reaching out to women of all walks of life and economic strata. A conference on rural women and substance abuse attracted 91 participants, while a workshop on middle-aged and older women's evolving needs was attended by some 155 women from around the state. The Alaska Women's Commission has been the preeminent voice advocating attention to these vital concerns in Alaska. Now, the Hickel administration is working overtime to silence that voice.

My intent with this measure is to continue the important work of the Alaska Women's Commission, but out from under the politically hostile umbrella of this and, perhaps, future administrations. The Commission is an important link between Alaskans and state lawmakers. It deserves our protection.



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

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

March 1, 1991

The Honorable Walter Hickel
P.O. Box A
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Governor Hickel:

The Alaska Women's Commission has a number of projects that they are presently working on for FY'91. We are asking that you strongly consider retaining Ruth Lister through the completion of the following projects:

Teen Pregnancy Report based on interview with pregnant and parenting teens statewide. In layout stage, printing in March.

RSA from Child Support Enforcement Division: Research by Justice Center, UAA, of court files in Nome, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Bethel almost complete. Analysis and report for legislature will be completed in early May. Public outreach portion of RSA will be completed in March and report will be written in April.

Leadership in Sobriety Conference II: to be held in Bethel, April 24-26.

Women's Hall of Fame reception: March 24, at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art.

Women's Business Conference: April 20, in Anchorage.

Booklet for AFDC recipients on how to advocate for yourself, information on regulations, programs and resources. First draft written, printing in May.

Booklet for parents on how to advocate for your children in the school system. First draft written, printing in April.

Meetings with AFDC recipients to support self-sufficiency: March 7 in Juneau, March 22 and May 16 in Anchorage, Bethel. date not set. Mentoring project, March and April.

WALTER J HICKEL
GOVERNOR



PHONE
(907) 561-4227

STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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

February 27, 1991

Representative Niilo Koponen
Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Koponen:

The Alaska Women's Commission is very concerned that the administration's proposed FY92 budget will have a serious and disproportionately negative impact on women and families.

Women in Alaska are earning only 62 cents to the dollar earned by men. We should be doing everything we can to assist women, especially single parents and displaced homemakers, to achieve economic equity and to fully participate in all sectors of the labor force. We know what is needed: education and training, affordable, quality child care, safety from violence, and policies that support women and children. If we underfund these areas we will be paying much more for increased public assistance, medical, and social service costs.

What is the impact of increasing capital expenditures and decreasing the operating budget? According to the Dept. of Labor, 88% of jobs in the construction industry are held by men, and in many occupations there are labor shortages. Cutting \$100 million from the operating budget will result in over 3500 lost jobs (direct and indirect), most of which are held by women earning too little to spend their earnings out of state. Shifting \$100 million to the capital budget creates only 1360 jobs according to Scott Goldsmith of ISER. During past construction booms, up to 21% of unemployment insurance payments went out-of-state (1984). Since importing workers will be easier and faster than retraining Alaskan workers, and since the budget has not included specific plans for retraining Alaskans, particularly as it impacts women, we can expect major economic dislocation.

Economic development must include all low income people as part of planning policy. AFDC should continue to be targeted by the Dept. of Labor as a priority project. As development creates new jobs, training programs like JTPA should be adequately funded and have first source of referral agreements for some of these jobs. State employment training programs should be working with the private sector and agencies that are receiving funds and contracts as part of economic development. Women and minorities must be part of the economic development planning process so that their needs, concerns and vision are incorporated.

The JOBS program, which assists AFDC recipients to obtain education and training for employment, is a critical part of welfare reform and should be a major piece in the state's economic development planning. In FY92, participation in JOBS is required to increase from 7% to 11% and the state program will operate 12 months instead of 9 months. Yet 2.5 positions will be cut from DHSS Alaska Work Programs staff. No additional JTPA funding is included despite the fact that JTPA is the only source of post-secondary and on the job training for JOBS clients apart from self-initiated Pell grants, and despite the fact that this commitment to JOBS by JTPA will displace others seeking their services. In addition, there are no new JTPA funds for the unemployed parent program. No state match is being proposed for the regional non-profits serving Alaska Natives and at least one, CITC in Anchorage, has decided to turn JOBS back to the state due to inadequate funding. Additional funds are also needed for support services such as tuition for clients who don't qualify under other programs and for transportation. Support services funds are inadequate now.

In FY91 DHSS decided that 90% of participants in JOBS had to be from target groups. The Federal government only requires that 55% of funds go to target groups (teens in high school, recipients under 24 without a high school diploma or GED or significant work experience, recipients who have been on AFDC 36 out of the last 60 months, and recipients whose youngest child is 16 or 17). Many women who want to volunteer are not being given that opportunity. If they are very motivated and get guidance and funding, they can try to self-initiate training or education (although probably not through JTPA). But in most places they can't get day care assistance and, of course, they cannot afford to pay themselves for child care. So they will stay on welfare.

Child care should be one of our top priorities. Unless the Day Care Assistance Program is adequately funded we are creating an untenable situation for eligible parents (95% women). Many will have to go on welfare. The Child Care grant program is integral to quality child care and should also be fully funded, not cut. These programs are absolutely basic. Not only will families be severely affected by the cuts, but forcing families to go on AFDC costs the state a lot more. It also creates labor shortages in entry level and lower paid jobs, already a problem.

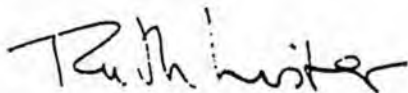
The proposed cuts to the education budget are alarming. Alaska graduates only 66% of students, compared to 75% nationally. When the Women's Commission studied school dropout for young women, overwhelmingly they felt no one cared. Cuts to education will mean fewer school counselors and nurses, and cuts to alternative programs for at risk youth. Education is the key for women and minorities to attain economic equity. The average wage for a woman high school graduate in Alaska is \$15,100/year: for men it is \$23,900. Even with 4 years post-secondary education, women earn only \$21,300/year, over \$10,000/year less than men. Disparities also exist on the basis of race.

Child sexual and physical abuse, and discrimination on the basis of race, gender, age and class, were the two major causal factors cited by young women for school drop-out. The proposed budget eliminates \$1.6 million in child abuse prevention grants and cuts suicide prevention grants by \$180,000. Alaska ranks 43rd in the nation in teen violent death rate. Many other children's services have been cut. By making these cuts we would be telling our children and youth that no one cares. Increases, not cuts, are needed here.

Safety for women and their children is a critical issue. Cutting the domestic violence and sexual assault programs is a major step backwards. Again, what we need is increased funding. Alaska has one of the highest rates of violence against women in the nation, and it is increasing here, as it is elsewhere in the country. Lack of safety affects all aspects of women's lives. Proposed cuts to the court victims witness program and to Alaska Legal Services will also negatively impact women.

It is very important to take a broad view of what we are doing with the budget. If we want healthy families and adequate employment for all who choose to work, then there are many pieces to this puzzle. We cannot leave out one sector of the population or ignore a desperate area of need. Everyone must be part of the planning and part of the solution. I urge you to hold social justice and economic equity as your bottom lines in decision making on the budget.

Sincerely,



Ruth Lister
Alaska Women's Commission



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION
3601 C STREET • SUITE 712
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503

VIA FAX 463-3454
February 20, 1991

The Honorable Walter J. Hickel
Governor of Alaska
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box A
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0101

Dear Governor Hickel:

On January 21st of this year, I wrote requesting a meeting with you to discuss the role of the Alaska Women's Commission in your administration. This letter was written after three weeks of trying to obtain information about the Commission's budget from both your boards and commission liaison, and your chief of operations. Neither of these individuals was ever able to provide me with any information regarding the status of the Commission, either from a budgetary or a policy standpoint.

Although I have never received a response to my letter of January 21st, I did receive a fax from the Commission's vice-chair on January 24th, sent to her by Max Hodel, informing the Commission that we could expect to receive funding cuts. Unfortunately, the letter did not indicate the magnitude of the cuts, and I first learned of their magnitude from the media. It is with interest, that I have read in my local newspaper, your statement that the budget cuts may have occurred too hastily.

As you must be aware, the Commission feels that the funding level recommended in your budget will not allow the Commission to accomplish our stated activities for FY92, nor carry on any meaningfully productive work. As an organization that represents more than fifty percent of the residents of this State, we believe that adequate funding is not only essential, it is imperative. We urge you to consider restoration of the Commission's budget, as you reportedly revise the administration's budget through the supplemental budget process.

I am again requesting a meeting with you to discuss the perceived role of the Alaska Women's Commission in your administration. I will be in Juneau on March 7 and 8, 1991 and could be available to meet with you then. The Commission's spring meeting has been scheduled for March 24 and 25, 1991, and we would like to be adequately prepared to plan for the future.

To this end we require that Mr. Max Hodel or Mr. Malcom Roberts be available at our March meeting, to provide the full Commission with information on the role of the Alaska Women's Commission in the Hickel administration. We have set aside time on the agenda at 9:00 am on Monday March 25, 1991 for this discussion. We fully expect to see one of these two gentlemen at our meeting.

I am available by phone, in order to confirm a meeting with yourself on either March 7 or 8, or to confirm which of your two staff members will attend our meeting on March 25th. My work number is 486-5736 and my home number 486-5314.

Sincerely,

Linda L. Freed

Linda L. Freed, Chair
Alaska Women's Commission

c.c. Alaska Women's Commission Members
Seventeenth Alaska State Legislature
Anchorage Daily News
Anchorage Times
Fairbanks Daily News Miner
Juneau Empire
Kodiak Daily Mirror
Kodiak Public Broadcasting Corporation



STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION

3601 C STREET - SUITE 742
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503

REPORT ON KEY CONCERNS: MID-LIFE AND OLDER WOMEN

On October 13, 1990, 155 women attended Women at the Crossroads, a conference for mid-life and older women. The steering committee for the conference identified economics and health as the two chief concerns to be addressed at the conference. The following workshops were given at the conference:

- Health Issues for Mid-life and Older women
- Long Term Care: Legal, Personal and Financial Concerns
- Employment Issues: Career Change, Discrimination, Re-entry into the Work Force
- Personal Finances and Retirement Planning
- Starting a Small or Home Business

The conference participants had two opportunities to talk about themselves and their lives. They talked about what was good and what was hard for them being a mid-life or older woman and what were their key concerns. It is our hope that this information will give legislators and administrators a better understanding of the special needs of older women in Alaska.

Key Concerns:

- lack of health insurance
- inadequate retirement income, fixed income and rising costs
- job discrimination
- lack of financial security
- poverty
- health problems, physical limitations
- dependency on spouse or government
- affordable housing (also need for congregate and intermediate housing and being able to live at home)
- loneliness, lack of support system, depression
- quality of life: living and dying with dignity
- caring for elderly parents, disabled spouse
- negative societal view of older women
- lack of understanding of finances
- fear of institutionalization
- need for job training, meaningful work

PLEASE MICROFILM TOP PAGE ONLY

DOCUMENTS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN
FILMED BUT ARE AVAILABLE IN THE
ORIGINAL FILE INCLUDE:

→ letters of support

→ ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION REPORT FEB 1990

→ ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 1990

→ NEWS CLIPPINGS