

**SB**

**53**

<TARGET><BILL>SB 53</BILL><SUBJECT>SB  
53</SUBJECT><COMM>SSTA27</COMM></TARGET>

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

## First Committee of Referral

DATE: 1/19/11

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED  
 IN TO OFFICE: 3-29-11

**State Affairs Committee** considered SENATE BILL NO. 53

### SB 53 COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

"An Act reestablishing the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women; and relating to the purpose and powers of the Alaska Human Relations Commission."

and recommends:

- be replaced with CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)  Same Title  New Title
- adopt previous CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)  Same Title  New Title
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

| Dept Abbr. |     |
|------------|-----|
| ADM        | LEG |
| CED        | LAW |
| COR        | LWF |
| CRT        | MVA |
| EED        | DNR |
| DEC        | DPS |
| DFG        | REV |
| GOV        | DOT |
| DHS        | UA  |

| NEW FISCAL NOTE(S) |        |        |      |      |
|--------------------|--------|--------|------|------|
| Dept.              | Fiscal | Indet. | Zero | FN # |
| Gov.               | X      |        |      |      |
|                    |        |        |      |      |
|                    |        |        |      |      |
|                    |        |        |      |      |
|                    |        |        |      |      |
|                    |        |        |      |      |

| PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S) |        |        |      |      |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|------|------|
| Dept.                   | Fiscal | Indet. | Zero | FN # |
|                         |        |        |      |      |
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|                         |        |        |      |      |
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|                         |        |        |      |      |
|                         |        |        |      |      |

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

| SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS: | PRINTED LAST NAME | DO PASS | DO NOT PASS | NO REC | AMEND |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------|-------------|--------|-------|
|                                 | Koblesch          | X       |             |        |       |
|                                 | Perkins           | X       |             |        |       |
|                                 | Mayer             |         |             | X      |       |
|                                 | Biessel           |         | X           |        |       |
|                                 |                   |         |             |        |       |
|                                 |                   |         |             |        |       |
| CHAIR:                          | Wielechawski      | X       |             |        |       |

# Alaska State Legislature

Senate  
Health & Social  
Committee  
Chair

Senate  
Education Committee  
Vice-Chair



Legislative Council  
Vice-Chair

Senate  
Transportation  
Committee

Senate  
Labor & Commerce  
Committee

[Senator Betty Davis@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Betty_Davis@legis.state.ak.us)  
<http://www.aksenate.org/>

## Senator Betty Davis

### SPONSOR STATEMENT

#### SB53 – REESTABLISHMENT OF THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Senate Bill 53 "An Act reestablishing the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women; and relating to the purpose and powers of the Alaska Human Relations Commission."

Senate Bill 53 reestablishes the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women. The Alaska Legislature established the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women in 1978 (ch 120 SLA 1978). The Commission was tasked with implementing the recommendations contained in the preliminary study on the status of women. The Commission aimed to improve the status of women in the state by conducting research, serving as a referral service for information and education on existing resources for women, and making and implementing recommendations on the opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women in Alaska. The Commission was dedicated to the achievement of equal legal, economic, social and political status specifically for women in Alaska and was a statewide network for study and action on a variety of issues. In 1983, the Commission was renewed and renamed the Alaska Women's Commission (ch 52 SLA 1983).

The Commission conducted many public hearings and trainings, developed manuals on violence against women, education and welfare, conducted research to help women avail themselves of existing resources to meet their needs and implemented recommendations on the opportunities, needs, problems and contributions of women in the areas of education, homemaking, civil and legal rights, and labor and employment. The Commission developed a comprehensive statewide plan that identified the needs of children and youth and made recommendations to enhance the quality of life for women and children, as well as produced annual reports on the status of women and children in Alaska. The Alaska Women's Commission merged with the Alaska Human Relations Commission in 1993. The Alaska Human Relations Commission continues to exist in State Statute, but has never been funded and was declared inactive in 1996.

Over the past several decades, the participation and roles of women in the workforce has changed dramatically. Women are employed in more varied occupations and are more likely to work year-round than they have in the past. In addition, women have attained higher levels of education, and receive the majority of bachelor degrees granted. More mothers are part of the workforce, and thus, a women's contribution to family incomes have increased and is often critical for families' economic well-being. In 2008, working wives contributed 29 percent of their families' incomes, up from 24 percent in 1988. Nonetheless, even though more women are in the workforce than ever before, the difference in wages men and women receive for their work remains substantial. The gender wage gap persists in Alaska, and across a wide spectrum of occupations and industries. According to *Invest in Women, Invest in America*, women working full-time, year-round earn only 77 cents for

*Session: (January – April)*

State Capitol, Room #30, Juneau, AK 99801-1182 Phone: (907) 465-3822 Fax: (907) 465-3756 Toll Free: (800) 770-3822

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every dollar earned by men. In Alaska, men continue to earn significantly more on average than women in 2009. According to data obtained from the Alaska Department of Labor and workforce Development, the wage difference between men and women has not changed much since 2000. On average, women earned 66.6 percent of what men earned in 2009, which was the same as in 2006. Women and children continue to be the most common victims of domestic abuse. Women in Alaska lead the nation as victims of sexual assaults. Alaska has a struggling foster child system and Alaska's high school students, both male and female, drop out at alarming rates. Alaska has one of the lowest percentages of students entering and completing higher education programs and Alaska has a significant economic divide between our urban and rural communities, which negatively impacts all of us. These are a few areas of concerns facing women and children in our state and simply put, Alaska can no longer afford to ignore these statistics.

Alaska with its unique culture, history and challenges, combined with its large size and small population, calls for innovative forward thinking to deal with many of the difficult issues facing women and children throughout Alaska. Reestablishing the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women will allow Alaskans to focus attention on these critical issues that have negatively impacted women and children for decades.

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LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

**Attachment A**

AS § 39.05.100

AS § 44.19.600 through AS § 44.19.619

AS § 47.18.010

Executive Order No. 84 (1993)

**Attachment B**

State of Alaska

Boards and Commissions

Membership Roster

Alaska Human Relations Commission

Revised December 23, 1993

**Attachment A**

AS § 39.05.100

AS § 44.19.600 through AS § 44.19.619

AS § 47.18.010

Executive Order No. 84 (1993)



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TITLE 39. PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES  
CHAPTER 05. QUALIFICATIONS, APPOINTMENT, AND TENURE

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*Alaska Stat. § 39.05.100 (2009)*

Sec. 39.05.100. Qualifications for appointment

(a) A person appointed to a board or commission of the state government shall be and have been before the last general election, (1) a registered voter in the state, if the appointment is made at large or (2) a registered voter from the judicial district, if the appointment is made from a specific judicial district. The student member of the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska appointed under *AS 14.40.150(b)*, the student member of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education appointed under *AS 14.42.015(d)*, and a member of the Alaska Human Relations Commission appointed under *AS 44.19.600*, are exempt from the requirement of this subsection if the member was not old enough to be a registered voter in the last general election.

(b) A member of a board or commission of the state government who ceases to reside in the state during the member's term terminates membership on the board or commission. For the purposes of this section, the acceptance of employment outside the state for a six-month period or longer, or physical absence from the state for one year or longer, or registration as a voter in a municipal, county, district, state, or national election in a voting precinct outside the state is considered as discontinuing residence in the state.

**HISTORY:** (§ 5 ch 64 SLA 1955; am § 1 ch 167 SLA 1957; am § 68 ch 14 SLA 1987; am §§ 10, 11 ch 16 SLA 1990; am E.O. No. 84 § 6 (1993))

**NOTES:**

**REVISOR'S NOTES.** --In 2008, in subsection (a), "*AS 14.42.015(d)*" was substituted for "*AS 14.42.015(e)*" to reflect the 2008 relettering of *AS 14.42.015(e)*.

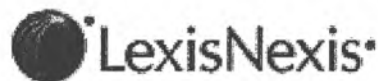
**OPINIONS OF ATTORNEY GENERAL.** --An individual is eligible for appointment to a state board or commission where his voter registration was administratively cancelled and he has not reregistered to vote. *1987 Alaska AG Lexis*

255; 1987-1 Op (Inf.) Atty Gen. Alas 367.

Where the governor has appointed a person to a state board or commission and that appointee has been confirmed by the legislature, that person is in fact a member of the board or commission even though the appointee's voter registration was administratively cancelled. *1987 Alaska AG Lexis 255*; 1987-1 Op (Inf.) Atty Gen. Alas 367.

COLLATERAL REFERENCES. --*63C Am. Jur. 2d, Public Officers and Employees, §§ 48 to 84.*

USER NOTE: For more generally applicable notes, see notes under the first section of this article, chapter or title.



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TITLE 44. STATE GOVERNMENT  
CHAPTER 19. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
ARTICLE 5. ALASKA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

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*Alaska Stat. § 44.19.600 (2009)*

Sec. 44.19.600. Creation of commission; composition

(a) There is created in the Office of the Governor the Alaska Human Relations Commission.

(b) The commission consists of two executive-branch members and seven public members, appointed by the governor, who serve at the pleasure of the governor.

(c) At least one public member must be a person who manages a household that includes the person's spouse and at least one child and who is not otherwise employed. At least one public member must be under the age of 21 at the time of appointment.

**HISTORY:** (E.O. No. 84 § 7 (1993))

**NOTES:**

REVISOR'S NOTES. --This section number has been used twice, once for the material added by sec. 2, ch. 69, SLA 1964, amended by sec. 1, ch. 101, SLA 1965, and repealed by sec. 10, ch. 200, SLA 1972; and the second time for the material added by E.O. 84.

NOTES APPLICABLE TO ENTIRE TITLE

REVISOR'S NOTES. --The provisions of this title were redrafted in 1984 to remove personal pronouns pursuant to § 4, ch. 58, SLA 1982, and in 1984, 1989, 1993, and 2004 to make other minor word changes.

NOTES APPLICABLE TO ENTIRE CHAPTER

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE. --For governor, see 6 AAC, part 8.

NOTES APPLICABLE TO ENTIRE ARTICLE

CROSS REFERENCES. --For transitional provisions relating to the transfer of powers and duties of the Alaska Women's Commission and the Alaska Commission on Children and Youth to the Alaska Human Relations Commission, see § 10(b), E.O. No. 84 (1993) in the Executive Order Pamphlet.



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*Alaska Stat. § 44.19.602 (2009)*

Sec. 44.19.602. Appointment; officers

(a) The members shall be appointed on a nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory basis by the governor. In making the appointments, the governor shall give due consideration to

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

(2) statewide geographical representation of the commission;

(3) minority and low-income representation;

(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.

(b) The commission shall elect one of its members as chair. The chair may appoint other officers as necessary.

**HISTORY:** (E.O. No. 84 § 7 (1993))

USER NOTE: For more generally applicable notes, see notes under the first section of this article, chapter or title.



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*Alaska Stat. § 44.19.604 (2009)*

Sec. 44.19.604. Terms of office; compensation

(a) The term of office of a member of the commission is three years. Terms shall be staggered. A member may not serve more than six consecutive years.

(b) A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. A person appointed to a vacancy serves for the unexpired portion of a term.

(c) Public members of the commission receive no compensation for their services but are entitled to per diem and travel allowances authorized by law for other boards and commissions.

**HISTORY:** (E.O. No. 84 § 7 (1993))

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Alaska Stat. § 44.19.606

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*Alaska Stat. § 44.19.606 (2009)*

Sec. 44.19.606. Meetings

A majority of the members constitutes a quorum for conducting business and exercising the powers of the commission. The commission shall meet at the call of the chairperson, at the request of the majority of the members, or at a regularly scheduled time as determined by a majority of the members.

**HISTORY:** (E.O. No. 84 § 7 (1993))

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*Alaska Stat. § 44.19.608 (2009)*

Sec. 44.19.608. Purpose and powers relating to women's issues

(a) A purpose of the commission is to improve the status of women in the state by conducting research, by serving as a referral service for information and education that will help women avail themselves of existing resources to meet their needs, and by making and implementing recommendations on the opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women in the state including

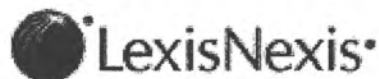
- (1) education;
- (2) homemaking;
- (3) civil and legal rights; and
- (4) labor and employment.

(b) To accomplish this purpose, the commission may

- (1) act as a clearinghouse and coordinating body for government and nongovernment information relating to the status of women;
- (2) cooperate with public and private agencies in joint efforts to study and resolve problems relating to the status of women in Alaska;
- (3) accumulate and compile information concerning discrimination against women;
- (4) disseminate the results of research and compilation of data acquired under (3) of this subsection by publication and other methods such as public hearings, conferences, and seminars;
- (5) study and analyze all facts relating to Alaska laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to equal protection for women under the state constitution;
- (6) recommend legislative and administrative action on equal treatment and opportunities for women;
- (7) encourage women to utilize their capabilities and to assume leadership roles;
- (8) encourage the development of regional and municipal women's councils or commissions.

**HISTORY:** (E.O. No. 84 § 7 (1993))

**USER NOTE:** For more generally applicable notes, see notes under the first section of this article, chapter or title.



Alaska Stat. § 44.19.610

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*Alaska Stat. § 44.19.610 (2009)*

Sec. 44.19.610. Duties relating to children's issues

(a) The commission shall develop a comprehensive statewide plan that identifies the needs of children and youth, individually and as they relate to their families, and make recommendations to enhance their quality of life. In meeting this charge, the commission may

(1) recommend the services and programs that should be available for children and families in the areas of child care, health, social services, education, special education, child protection, parent and staff training, nutrition, poverty, mental health, safety, and employment of youth;

(2) identify the service needs of children and where gaps and overlaps in services exist;

(3) monitor the emerging needs of and problems facing children, and develop effective, comprehensive, and coordinated strategies to address those needs and problems;

(4) develop and recommend adoption of a process for monitoring and evaluating children's programs;

(5) provide opportunities for the public to participate in the planning and development of children's programs and policies;

(6) receive and act upon requests for recommendations from parents, state officials, members of state advisory committees, legislators, representatives of the state court system, and providers of children's services on matters related to children and youth;

(7) meet with and make recommendations to state officials and members of advisory committees who are responsible for the expenditure of state and federal money and provide recommendations to the legislature and the department on structural and procedural changes, contracting of services, establishment of standards, and the consolidation of efforts designed to deliver services in a more cost-effective manner;

(8) serve as a statewide clearinghouse for government and nongovernment programs and resources relating to

children, youth, and families;

(9) serve as an advocate for the interests of children by informing the public, including leaders of the business community, educators, local and state officials, the legal system, and the communications media of the nature and scope of problems faced by children;

(10) coordinate efforts and consult and cooperate with persons, departments, organizations, and groups, including other boards and commissions, interested in the problems and concerns of children and youth; and

(11) make recommendations to the governor, legislature, and state officials with respect to legislation, regulations, and appropriations for programs or services that benefit children and youth.

**HISTORY:** (E.O. No. 84 § 7 (1993))

**NOTES:**

**REVISOR'S NOTES.** --This section number has been used twice, once for the material added by sec. 2, ch. 69, SLA 1964, amended by secs. 2-4, ch. 101, SLA 1965, and repealed by sec. 10, ch. 200, SLA 1972; and the second time for the material added by E.O. 84.

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*Alaska Stat. § 44.19.612 (2009)*

Sec. 44.19.612. General powers

The commission may

- (1) use voluntary and uncompensated services of private persons and organizations as may be made available to the commission;
- (2) select and retain the services of consultants whose advice is considered necessary to assist the commission in obtaining information;
- (3) establish standing committees among the members to investigate and make recommendations on various areas of concern;
- (4) create task forces composed of commission members and other experts as needed;
- (5) hold public hearings;
- (6) establish and maintain an office in Anchorage, or at a location determined to be the most appropriate location by a majority vote of the commission, and hire an executive director and technical and clerical staff that are necessary to perform the duties of the commission;
- (7) accept monetary gifts or grants from the federal government or an agency of it, from any charitable foundation or professional association or from any other reputable sources for implementation of any program necessary or desirable for carrying out the purposes of the commission;
- (8) take other actions reasonably necessary to carry out the duties of the commission.

**HISTORY:** (E.O. No. 84 § 7 (1993))

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*Alaska Stat. § 44.19.614 (2009)*

## Sec. 44.19.614. Methodology

(a) 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 represent the broad spectrum of diversity that exists with respect to possible approaches for meeting women's needs in the state.

(b) In formulating the strategy to address the needs of and problems facing children, the commission shall actively solicit advice and information from children and youth of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds. The commission shall also seek advice and information from parents and children's services providers, including those with expertise in the areas of mental health, health care, prenatal care, adolescent drug and alcohol treatment, education, special education, early childhood education, early childhood special education, nonprofit funding sources, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, child care, dependence, delinquency and the justice system, minority issues, and family support systems.

**HISTORY:** (E.O. No. 84 § 7 (1993))

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*Alaska Stat. § 44.19.616 (2009)*

## Sec. 44.19.616. Annual report

The commission shall prepare and publish an annual report on the status of children and women in the state, the commission's proceedings for the previous calendar year, and its recommendations and proposals for change. The commission shall provide the governor with copies of the report by the 15th day of each regular legislative session and

notify the legislature that the report is available.

**HISTORY:** (E.O. No. 84 § 7 (1993); am § 86 ch 21 SLA 1995)

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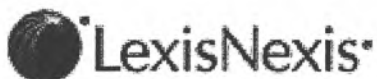
*Alaska Stat. § 44.19.618 (2009)*

Sec. 44.19.618. Technical assistance and staff support

The executive branch departments shall cooperate with the commission and provide technical assistance to the commission upon the request of the commission. The commission may use legal, technical, secretarial, and administrative services as may be provided by the governor.

**HISTORY:** (E.O. No. 84 § 7 (1993))

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Alaska Stat. § 44.19.620

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*Alaska Stat. § 44.19.620 (2009)*

Secs. 44.19.620 -- 44.19.627. Establishment of council, appointment, compensation, officers, meetings, council as state planning entity, functions of council, and administration. [Repealed, § 85 ch 58 SLA 1999.]

USER NOTE: For more generally applicable notes, see notes under the first section of this article, chapter or title.

[Repealed]

**Attachment B**

State of Alaska  
Boards and Commissions  
Membership Roster  
Alaska Human Relations Commission  
Revised December 23, 1993

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**Boards and Commissions**

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**Membership Roster**  
**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (179)**

| <b>Member</b>   | <b>Appointed</b> | <b>Reappointed</b> | <b>Term Exp.</b> |
|---|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Sheryl L. Cowan<br>Public<br>P.O. Box 113181<br>Anchorage, AK 99511-3181          | 09/01/93         |                    | 09/01/94         |
| Robert W. Head<br>Public -- Chair<br>P.O. Box 20218<br>Juneau, AK 99802-0218      | 09/01/93         |                    | 09/01/94         |
| Aaron S. Kusano<br>Public<br>1831 North Salem Drive<br>Anchorage, AK 99508        | 09/01/93         |                    | 09/01/95         |
| Virginia C. Phillips<br>Public<br>404 Lake Street, # 2D<br>Sitka, AK 99835        | 09/01/93         |                    | 09/01/95         |
| Kari Repplinger<br>Executive Branch Member<br>8790 Duran<br>Juneau, AK 99801      | 09/01/93         |                    | 09/01/96         |
| Darcy Sjoblom<br>Public<br>1239 Lakloey Drive<br>North Pole, AK 99705             | 10/11/93         |                    | 09/01/94         |
| Steve Strube<br>Public<br>P.O. Box 521155<br>Big Lake, AK 99652                   | 09/01/93         |                    | 09/01/95         |
| Denny A. Terry<br>Public<br>350 Knudson Cove Road<br>Ketchikan, AK 99901          | 09/01/93         |                    | 09/01/96         |
| Brenda H. Wilcox<br>Executive Branch Member<br>P.O. Box 20967<br>Juneau, AK 99802 | 09/01/93         |                    | 09/01/96         |

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**Boards and Commissions**

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**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

**BOARD:** Alaska Human Relations Commission

**BOARD IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:** 179

**DEPARTMENT:** OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**AUTHORITY:** AS 44.19.600

**STATUS:** Active

**TERM:** 3 years

**DESCRIPTION:** 9 members appointed by the governor: 2 executive branch members and 7 public members. At least 1 public member must be a person who manages a household that includes the person's spouse and at least 1 child and who is not otherwise employed. At least 1 public member must be under the age of 21 at the time of appointment.

**FUNCTION:** To improve the status of women in Alaska by conducting research; by serving as a referral service for information and education that will help women avail themselves implementing recommendations on the opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women in Alaska. To develop a comprehensive statewide plan that identifies the needs of children and youth individually and as they relate to their families, and make recommendations to enhance their quality of life.

**CHAIR:** Commission elects.

**SPECIAL FACTS:** Quorum - majority. Annual report to the governor and the legislature by the 15th day of each regular legislative session. A member may not serve more than 6 consecutive years. Commission elects chair. Commission formed March 13, 1993, the effective date of Executive Order No. 84, combining the functions and duties of the Alaska Women's Commission and the Alaska Commission on Children and Youth.

**COMPENSATION:** Standard Travel and Per Diem. No additional compensation.

**MEETINGS:** Meets at call of the chair, at the request of majority of members, or at regularly scheduled times.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Boards and Commissions, Office of the Governor, P.O. Box 110001, Juneau, AK, 99811 0001, Phone: 907 465 3500, Fax: 907 463 3454



1 of 1 DOCUMENT

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\*\*\* Annotations current through opinions posted on Lexis.com as of January 9, 2009 \*\*\*

TITLE 47. WELFARE, SOCIAL SERVICES AND INSTITUTIONS  
CHAPTER 18. PROGRAMS AND SERVICES RELATED TO ADOLESCENTS  
ARTICLE 1. COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

**Go to the Alaska Code Archive Directory**

*Alaska Stat. § 47.18.010 (2009)*

Sec. 47.18.010. Development of statewide plan

(a) With the advice of the Alaska Human Relations Commission, the department shall develop a comprehensive statewide plan to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of state programs that relate to the prevention of adolescent pregnancy and the provision of services to adolescent parents and their children under *AS 47.18.100 -- 47.18.140*, and to peer counseling under *AS 47.18.200*.

(b) The plan developed under (a) of this section must

(1) review and include existing programs and services of state government;

(2) examine and consider the achievements and experiences of projects that are similar to those authorized under *AS 47.18.100 -- 47.18.140* and *47.18.200*;

(3) give priority to the consolidation and improvement of existing programs;

(4) make recommendations with regard to the need for new or expanded programs and services within the existing level of funding;

(5) consider the findings and recommendations of the Alaska's Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenthood Task Force; and

(6) make recommendations concerning the incremental implementation of the plan.

(c) The Department of Education and Early Development, the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development shall assist the department in

developing the plan required under (a) of this section. In addition, through appropriate means, the department shall solicit advice from teens, parents, educators, school administrators, taxpayers, civic groups, community organizations, Native organizations, officials of local governments, religious institutions, and other concerned persons about how state programs can be coordinated and operated in a manner that will enhance their effectiveness and efficiency in addressing the many needs associated with adolescent parenting, the prevention of adolescent pregnancies, and the provision of adolescent peer counseling.

**HISTORY:** (§ 1 ch 94 SLA 1991; am E.O. No. 84 § 8 (1993))

**NOTES:**

**REVISOR'S NOTES.** --In 1999, in (c) of this section, "Department of Education" was changed to "Department of Education and Early Development" and "Department of Labor" was changed to "Department of Labor and Workforce Development" in accordance with §§ 89 - 90, ch. 58, SLA 1999, and "Community and Regional Affairs" was changed to "Community and Economic Development" in accordance with § 91(a)(14), ch. 58, SLA 1999.

In 2004, in (c) of this section, "Department of Community and Economic Development" was changed to "Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development", in accordance with § 3, ch. 47, SLA 2004.

**NOTES APPLICABLE TO ENTIRE TITLE**

**REVISOR'S NOTES.** --The provisions of this title were redrafted in 1984 to remove personal pronouns pursuant to § 4, ch. 58, SLA 1982, and in 1984, 1990, 1995, and 2008 to make other minor word changes.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.** --For health and social services, see 7 AAC.

For hearings, see 7 AAC 49.

**E.O. 084 (1993)**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 084**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 84**

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 23, of the Alaska Constitution, and in accordance with AS 24.08.210, I order the following:

\* Section 1. FINDINGS. As governor, I find that it would be in the best interests of efficient administration to consolidate the duties and functions of the Alaska Women's Commission and the Alaska Commission on Children and Youth into a new Alaska Human Relations Commission in the Governor's Office. The consolidation should result in coordinated programs related to the welfare of children, youth, women, and families, and should maximize the effectiveness of federal and state money that is available for those programs.

\* Sec. 2. AS 37.14.220 is amended to read:

Sec. 37.14.220. ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND. The fund shall be administered by the Alaska Human Relations Commission [ALASKA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH].

\* Sec. 3. AS 37.14.230 is amended to read:

Sec. 37.14.230. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION. When acting as administrator of the fund, the commission shall

(1) hold regular and special meetings it considers necessary; the commission may hold meetings by teleconference;

(2) award grants from the net income of the fund to community-based programs and projects that the commission finds will aid in the prevention of child abuse and neglect;

(3) monitor approved programs and projects for compliance with

AS 37.14.200 - 37.14.270;

(4) before providing assistance to a program or project, approve written findings on the program or project that include a consideration of the means of measuring the effectiveness of the program or project;

(5) apply for, and use net income from the fund to obtain, private and federal grants for the prevention of child abuse and neglect;

(6) solicit contributions, gifts, and bequests to the fund;

(7) keep audio tape recordings of each meeting of the commission to be made available on request; and

(8) submit to the governor and the legislature by February 1 each year a report describing

(A) the child abuse and neglect prevention services that were provided by the programs and projects to which the commission awarded grants; and

(B) the annual level of contributions, income, and expenses of the fund.

\* Sec. 4. AS 37.14.240 (d) is amended to read:

(d) Up to \$150,000 per year may be appropriated from the principal of the fund for the administrative expenses of the commission relating to AS 37.14.200 - 37.14.270.

\* Sec. 5. AS 37.14.270 (3) is amended to read:

(3) "commission" means the Alaska Human Relations Commission [ALASKA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH] established under AS 44.19.600 [AS 44.19.521 ];

\* Sec. 6. AS 39.05.100 (a) is amended to read:

(a) A person appointed to a board or commission of the state government shall be and have been before the last general election, (1) a registered voter in the

state, if the appointment is made at large or (2) a registered voter from the judicial district, if the appointment is made from a specific judicial district. The student member of the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska appointed under AS 14.40.150 (b), the student member of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education appointed under AS 14.42.015 (e), and a member of the Alaska Human Relations Commission [ALASKA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH] appointed under AS 44.19.600 [AS 44.19.521], are exempt from the requirement of this subsection if the member was not old enough to be a registered voter in the last general election.

\* Sec. 7. AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections to read:

ARTICLE 18. ALASKA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION.

Sec. 44.19.601. CREATION OF COMMISSION; COMPOSITION. (a) There is created in the Office of the Governor the Alaska Human Relations Commission.

(b) The commission consists of two executive-branch members and seven public members, appointed by the governor, who serve at the pleasure of the governor.

(c) At least one public member must be a person who manages a household that includes the person's spouse and at least one child and who is not otherwise employed. At least one public member must be under the age of 21 at the time of appointment.

Sec. 44.19.602. APPOINTMENT; OFFICERS. (a) The members shall be appointed on a nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory basis by the governor. In making the appointments, the governor shall give due consideration to

(1) the recommendations made by civic organizations, women's organizations, educational and vocational groups, employer groups, labor unions, church groups, homemaker's clubs and organizations, and other groups having an

interest in the welfare and status of women;

(2) statewide geographical representation of the commission;

(3) minority and low-income representation;

(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.

(b) The commission shall elect one of its members as chair. The chair may appoint other officers as necessary.

Sec. 44.19.604. TERMS OF OFFICE; COMPENSATION. (a) The term of office of a member of the commission is three years. Terms shall be staggered. A member may not serve more than six consecutive years.

(b) A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

A person appointed to a vacancy serves for the unexpired portion of a term.

(c) Public members of the commission receive no compensation for their services but are entitled to per diem and travel allowances authorized by law for other boards and commissions.

Sec. 44.19.606. MEETINGS. A majority of the members constitutes a quorum for conducting business and exercising the powers of the commission. The commission shall meet at the call of the chairperson, at the request of the majority of the members, or at a regularly scheduled time as determined by a majority of the members.

Sec. 44.19.608. PURPOSE AND POWERS RELATING TO WOMEN'S

ISSUES. (a) A purpose of the commission is to improve the status of women in the state by conducting research, by serving as a referral service for information and education that will help women avail themselves of existing resources to meet their

needs, and by making and implementing recommendations on the opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women in the state including

- (1) education;
- (2) homemaking;
- (3) civil and legal rights; and
- (4) labor and employment.

(b) To accomplish this purpose, the commission may

- (1) act as a clearinghouse and coordinating body for government and nongovernment information relating to the status of women;
- (2) cooperate with public and private agencies in joint efforts to study and resolve problems relating to the status of women in Alaska;
- (3) accumulate and compile information concerning discrimination against women;
- (4) disseminate the results of research and compilation of data acquired under (3) of this subsection by publication and other methods such as public hearings, conferences, and seminars;
- (5) study and analyze all facts relating to Alaska laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to equal protection for women under the state constitution;
- (6) recommend legislative and administrative action on equal treatment and opportunities for women;
- (7) encourage women to utilize their capabilities and to assume leadership roles;
- (8) encourage the development of regional and municipal women's councils or commissions.

Sec. 44.19.611. DUTIES RELATING TO CHILDREN'S ISSUES. (a) The commission shall develop a comprehensive statewide plan that identifies the needs of

children and youth, individually and as they relate to their families, and make recommendations to enhance their quality of life. In meeting this charge, the commission may

- (1) recommend the services and programs that should be available for children and families in the areas of child care, health, social services, education, special education, child protection, parent and staff training, nutrition, poverty, mental health, safety, and employment of youth;
- (2) identify the service needs of children and where gaps and overlaps in services exist;
- (3) monitor the emerging needs of and problems facing children, and develop effective, comprehensive, and coordinated strategies to address those needs and problems;
- (4) develop and recommend adoption of a process for monitoring and evaluating children's programs;
- (5) provide opportunities for the public to participate in the planning and development of children's programs and policies;
- (6) receive and act upon requests for recommendations from parents, state officials, members of state advisory committees, legislators, representatives of the state court system, and providers of children's services on matters related to children and youth;
- (7) meet with and make recommendations to state officials and members of advisory committees who are responsible for the expenditure of state and federal money and provide recommendations to the legislature and the department on structural and procedural changes, contracting of services, establishment of standards, and the consolidation of efforts designed to deliver services in a more cost-effective manner;

- (8) serve as a statewide clearinghouse for government and nongovernment programs and resources relating to children, youth, and families;
- (9) serve as an advocate for the interests of children by informing the public, including leaders of the business community, educators, local and state officials, the legal system, and the communications media of the nature and scope of problems faced by children;
- (10) coordinate efforts and consult and cooperate with persons, departments, organizations, and groups, including other boards and commissions, interested in the problems and concerns of children and youth; and
- (11) make recommendations to the governor, legislature, and state officials with respect to legislation, regulations, and appropriations for programs or services that benefit children and youth.

Sec. 44.19.612. GENERAL POWERS. The commission may

- (1) use voluntary and uncompensated services of private persons and organizations as may be made available to the commission;
- (2) select and retain the services of consultants whose advice is considered necessary to assist the commission in obtaining information;
- (3) establish standing committees among the members to investigate and make recommendations on various areas of concern;
- (4) create task forces composed of commission members and other experts as needed;
- (5) hold public hearings;
- (6) establish and maintain an office in Anchorage, or at a location determined to be the most appropriate location by a majority vote of the commission, and hire an executive director and technical and clerical staff that are necessary to perform the duties of the commission;

(7) accept monetary gifts or grants from the federal government or an agency of it, from any charitable foundation or professional association or from any other reputable sources for implementation of any program necessary or desirable for carrying out the purposes of the commission;

(8) take other actions reasonably necessary to carry out the duties of the commission.

Sec. 44.19.614. METHODOLOGY. (a) 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 represent the broad spectrum of diversity that exists with respect to possible approaches for meeting women's needs in the state.

(b) In formulating the strategy to address the needs of and problems facing children, the commission shall actively solicit advice and information from children and youth of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds. The commission shall also seek advice and information from parents and children's services providers, including those with expertise in the areas of mental health, health care, prenatal care, adolescent drug and alcohol treatment, education, special education, early childhood education, early childhood special education, nonprofit funding sources, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, child care, dependence, delinquency and the justice system, minority issues, and family support systems.

Sec. 44.19.616. ANNUAL REPORT. The commission shall prepare and publish an annual report on the status of children and women in the state, the commission's proceedings for the previous calendar year, and its recommendations and proposals for change. The commission shall provide the governor and the legislature with copies of the report by the 15th day of each regular legislative

session.

Sec. 44.19.618. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND STAFF SUPPORT. The executive branch departments shall cooperate with the commission and provide technical assistance to the commission upon the request of the commission. The commission may use legal, technical, secretarial, and administrative services as may be provided by the governor;

\* Sec. 8. AS 47.18.010(a) is amended to read:

(a) With the advice of the Alaska Human Relations Commission [ALASKA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH], the department shall develop a comprehensive statewide plan to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of state programs that relate to the prevention of adolescent pregnancy and the provision of services to adolescent parents and their children under AS 47.18.100 - 47.18.140, and to peer counseling under AS 47.18.200.

\* Sec. 9. AS 39.50.200 (b)(50); AS 44.19.165, 44.19.166, 44.19.167, 44.19.168, 44.19.169, 44.19.170, 44.19.171, 44.19.175, 44.19.180, 44.19.521, 44.19.523, 44.19.525, 44.19.527, and 44.19.529 are repealed. Sections 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 16, and 21 of ch. 16, SLA 1990 are repealed.

\* Sec. 10. TRANSITION. (a) The terms of the members of the Alaska Women's Commission established under AS 44.19.165 and of the Alaska Commission on Children and Youth established under AS 44.19.521 terminate on the effective date of this Order. Unless the appointment would be prohibited by AS 44.19.169, repealed by this Order, or by AS 44.19.604 (a), added by this Order, the governor may appoint to the Alaska Human Relations Commission created under this Order a former member of the Alaska Women's Commission or of the Alaska Commission on Children and Youth. The terms of persons initially appointed to the Alaska Human Relations Commission must be set as provided in AS 39.05.055, so as to establish the staggering of terms required by AS 44.19.604 (a).

(b) Contracts, rights, liabilities, and obligations created by or under a law amended

or repealed by this Executive Order, and in effect on March 12, 1993, remain in effect notwithstanding this Order's taking effect. Records, equipment, appropriations, and other property of agencies of the state whose functions are transferred under this Order shall be transferred to implement the provisions of this Order.

\* Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Order takes effect March 13, 1993.

DATED: January 11, 1993

/s/ Walter J. Hickel

Walter J. Hickel, Governor



CIRC. DOC.

ALASKA STATE

ANNUAL REPORT

ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION

STATUS REPORT VOLUME 7, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 1988

## 1978-88: A Decade of Advocacy for Women's Equity

### Futures Trading

*In October 1987 the members of the Alaska Women's Commission elected Paula Ziegler as their new chair. Ziegler was first appointed to the Commission in July of 1986 and chaired the Legislative Committee during 1987. Ziegler is former state president of the League of Women Voters of Alaska. She also serves on the regional council of her church and is chair of women's issues for the local chapter of the American Association of University Women. Ziegler lives in Juneau.*

The beginning of a new year is often the time to evaluate the past and reflect upon the future. Included with this newsletter is the annual report of the Alaska Women's Commission, evaluating our recent past. Even in a wind-down year, it is easy to quantify the accomplishments of the Commission and the positive impact this agency has had on economic, social, political and legal equality for women in Alaska.

Reflecting upon the future, however, is not as easy. If the legislature does not pass House Bill 4 this year, thereby reauthorizing the Commission in the

Alaskan statutes, the Commission, its programs, publications and research will end. What will not end, though, are the reasons the Commission was established in the first place. The progress made to date improves some situations, but also reveals others where inequity still exists. The Commission's work is not done.

What would the future look like without the Alaska Women's Commission? It would be a future without the only agency in state government that speaks to that government about issues, policies and situations affecting women. It would be a future without an office that receives more than 1000 calls a year for information and help. It would be a future without the essential follow-up needed to rectify the inequities revealed by the recently concluded divorce study.

It would be a future without agency-sponsored statewide and regional conferences on such subjects as legal rights for women, equal educational opportunities, and women in the political process, and it would be a future without publications such as the Women's Legal Rights Handbook, the Economic

Status of Alaska Native Women and An Assessment of Sex Equity in Alaska's Educational Institutions.

We can also say about the future, based on facts from the present, that the signs for women, children and families are challenging:

- of the 35 million people living in poverty in our country, 20 million are women;
- 70 % of households in America headed by women live in poverty;
- 72 % of women over 65 live on less than \$5000 a year;
- in Alaska, more than half of all women participate in the labor force;
- between 1960 and 1980 in Alaska, the greatest increase in labor force participation was among women of child-bearing age.

What we are left with is a question of trading—trading a future with a Women's Commission, and therefore with an agency in place to help meet these challenges, or a future with the challenges in place and no Commission.

The Alaska Women's Commission has a future because the only trade that makes sense is for a future *with* a Commission.

### What's Inside:

1987: A Challenge for Us All  
Annual Report 1987

- Legislative Advocacy
- Focus: Forced into Wind-Down
- The Question of a Merger
- Commission Research in the Forefront
- Education: A Year in Review
- Commission Budget

Events And People

Thanks



L. to R. Loretta Bullard, Nome; Mary Pete, Bethel; Chris Callahan, Executive Director; and Chairperson Paula Ziegler, Juneau, outside the Tundra Women's Coalition Shelter at the Commission meeting in Bethel, May 1987.

## Commission Members and Staff 1987

### Commission Members As of December 31, 1987

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Paula Ziegler, Chair<br>Juneau               | Pat Kennedy (Ex Officio)<br>Anchorage |
| Joy Green-Armstrong, Vice Chair<br>Anchorage | Mary Pete<br>Bethel                   |
| Loretta Bullard, Member-at-Large<br>Nome     | Betty Ramage<br>Anchorage             |
| Kris Chatfield<br>Anchorage                  | Wendy Redman<br>Fairbanks             |
| Linda Freed<br>Kodiak                        | Susan Smalley<br>Kenai                |



Susan Smalley was appointed to the Commission by Governor Steve Cowper in October 1987. A former teacher, married with two sons, Smalley is a professional volunteer in the Kenai schools. A member of the United Methodist Church statewide planning committee, Smalley also helped establish the local chapter of League of Women Voters and served as President of it for two years. She currently coordinates a "parents day out" program at her church.

### January-October 1987

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Kris Chatfield, Chair<br>Anchorage           | Mary Pete<br>Bethel                        |
| Joy Green-Armstrong, Vice Chair<br>Anchorage | Betty Ramage, Member-at-Large<br>Anchorage |
| Loretta Bullard<br>Nome                      | Wendy Redman<br>Fairbanks                  |
| Marcia Johnson<br>Sitka                      | Paula Ziegler<br>Juneau                    |
| Pat Kennedy, (Ex Officio)<br>Anchorage       |  |

Linda Freed was appointed to the Commission in January 1988. Freed is the Director of the Community Development Department for the Kodiak Island Borough. A Kodiak resident since 1980, Freed is an active community volunteer, serving on the boards of the Kodiak Women's Resource Center & the Kodiak Public Broadcasting Corporation. Freed was also one of the founders of the Kodiak Women's Network, and is a member of AAJW, the Kodiak Arts Council and the Kodiak Council on Alcoholism.

### Commission Staff

| Full Time                                | Part-Time  |
|--|--|
| Christine Callahan<br>Executive Director | Dorothy Campbell, Title V<br>Information Assistant |
| Barbara Baker<br>Research Analyst        |  |
| Hilda Gayton<br>Secretary                |  |

The Alaska Women's Commission is dedicated to the achievement of equal legal, economic, social and political status for women in Alaska.

Established by the legislature in 1978, the Commission was reaffirmed and renewed in 1983 by the Legislature and the Governor. Nine public members and one representative from the Attorney General's office are appointed by the Governor to staggered five year terms. They represent a wide range of backgrounds, interests and geographic areas. Meetings are held quarterly in various locations throughout the state and are open to the public.

The development of regional and municipal women's councils is being encouraged by the Commission. Councils advise the Women's Commission and coordinate local efforts to improve the status of women in Alaskan communities.

The Commission is a statewide network for study and action on a variety of issues. Current priorities include work on legislation, employment, civil and legal rights and issues relating to the family.



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## 1987: A Challenge For Us All

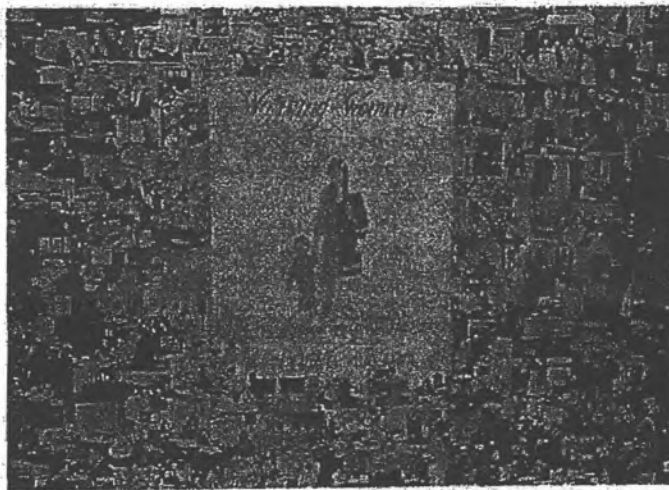
*Christine Callahan, Executive Director*

Plummeting oil prices and vanishing jobs did not leave many Alaskans untouched in 1987. Families had to face problems they never faced before. Many lost their jobs and homes and continue to confront devastating financial hardships. The stress experienced by Alaskan families in 1987 was enormous.

Policymakers have spent long hours attempting to develop programs and strategies to help ease the pain and prevent more problems from developing. In the midst of this turmoil, equity has sometimes appeared to take a back seat. But equity is not a luxury for times of plenty. Its importance becomes even more apparent in adversity.

What is occurring on a large scale in our current economy has for too long been everyday reality for many of the women in our state. Based on research conducted by the Alaska Women's Commission we know that single parents have been struggling to make ends meet. We know that numerous women with inadequate or non-existent child support have faced monthly bills with well-founded fear and anxiety. We know the extent of women's unequal earning power. We know that, combined with the costs of such necessities as child care, these circumstances too often force women to seek public assistance and sacrifice their hard-won independence and self sufficiency.

As recently as 1987, the Women's Commission conducted the first research to document the economic inequities of divorce in Alaska. What we found was, in Gov. Steve Cowper's words, "... eye opening evidence that women and children in Alaska are on the verge of becoming the state's New Poor." Divorced women faced with enormous mortgage payments on



Hundreds of women and the roles they fulfill are pictured in this collage from the North Slope Borough's Women's Conference, September 1987.

unsellable family homes see their meager resources eaten away while they try to keep their children in familiar neighborhoods and schools with at least their network of friends intact. Women who never dreamed it possible are unable to provide enough food for their children. Unless we change the laws regarding termination of marriage, we continue to condemn thousands of women and children to life on the edge of poverty.

Because of these problems in 1987 the Alaska Women's Commission stepped up its efforts to pass HB189, a bill that would make significant improvements in the laws governing divorce. The Commission included several seminars on this issue in its comprehensive Legal Rights Conference for Women, sponsored in partnership with community, educational and legal resources in the spring of 1987.

It is encouraging to see Alaskan leaders devoting their energy and imagination to solving these problems and ensuring that things do not get any worse. However it is important that the lessons learned from grappling with an austere economy are in turn applied to the situations that women have been struggling with for years. In addressing the dramatic problems of 1987, we must not overlook the quiet desperation that many women experienced long before oil prices dropped.

At this critical juncture it is unthinkable that the legislature would take any but the most positive action in assisting the populace to deal with serious economic adversity. This action should include reauthorizing the Alaska Women's Commission to continue its work for equity. Its work provides an important foundation for a sound and healthy economy and for economic development in which all Alaskans can share equally.

## Legislative Advocacy 1987

The Commission's legislative committee undertakes various efforts in advocating for legislative reform. Basing much of its work on the Statutory Review which it completed in 1985, the Commission has proposed major legislative reforms to the Governor since 1986. The Commission also analyzes and advocates any pending legislation which impacts women in the state. It provides legislative information to women's organizations throughout the state through the Legislative Alliance for Women Statewide (LAWS).

Few bills in general passed both legislative bodies in 1987. However, Commission supported legislation will be considered again in the second session of the 15th Alaska Legislature.

| Legislation  | Prime Sponsor  | House                   | Senate     |
|--|----------------|-------------------------|------------|
| HB 4 Alaska Women's Commission: Extends the Commission until June 30, 1991. Must pass Senate HESS, Judiciary and Finance before being scheduled for floor vote. Without passage, the Commission will terminate on June 30, 1988. | Rep. Davis     | Passed<br>3/2/87        | In S. HESS |
| HB 189 Divorce and Dissolution: Would require court to give greater scrutiny to dissolution cases. Makes career assets part of marital estate. Provides for interim spousal support.   | Governor       | H. HESS<br>Subcommittee |            |
| HB 224 Parental Leave: Provides for 18 weeks of unpaid leave for either parent after birth or adoption of a child. Exempts firms with less than 15 employees.  | Rep. Brown     | Passed<br>5/15/87       | In S. HESS |
| SB 124 Parental Leave: Provisions are similar to HB 224  | Sen. Josephson | S. HESS                 |            |

### Legislative Alliance For Women Statewide

In 1987 the Commission continued its leadership role in the Legislative Alliance for Women Statewide.

Established by the Commission in 1985, the Alliance is a coalition representing nearly 20 women's organizations throughout Alaska. This organization analyzes and takes positions on legislation, and monitors budget and policy decisions which have direct impact on women's lives.

By providing a forum in which these diverse organizations can participate and work together, the Commission helps mobilize the tremendous energy and commitment contained in these groups. The Commission provides these organizations with an access point to the policy and decision makers whose actions affect their lives. In turn, policymakers benefit from having the information and feedback that this group provides to them.

### Local Women's Councils

The Alaska Women's Commission statute was amended by the Alaska legislature in 1983 to include the development of local women's councils around the state. The purpose of the local councils is to ensure that local priorities and issues are addressed at that level. Initially, the councils were established in Commissioners' home communities in order to foster coordination.

During 1984 the Commission worked to establish councils in Anchorage and Sitka. In 1985 Juneau was successfully targeted. In 1986 the North Slope Borough Assembly passed an ordinance establishing the North Slope Borough Women's Council and in 1987 the Commission assisted women's organizations in the North Slope to form a task force to encourage recruitment and appointments to the Women's Council there.

Each council functions independently of the Women's Commission, consists of at least nine members, and meets quarterly. The duties of the local councils are to:

1. analyze and prioritize the needs of women at the local level;
2. recommend legislative and administrative action on women's issues to the Alaska Women's Commission;
3. disseminate research and publications of the Alaska Women's Commission to local women, and
4. serve as a clearinghouse for information relating to the status of women in local communities.

## *Focus '87—Women's Commission Forced into Wind-Down*

For the first time in Alaska's history, a substantive policy making board was forced into "wind-down" when the Alaska Women's Commission sunset bill was bottled up in two Senate committees during the legislative session.

Despite widespread support from thousands of people around the state, bipartisan support from a majority of legislators, the efforts of Governor Cowper and more than 20 statewide service and professional organizations, the bill to extend the Alaska Women's Commission did not pass the first session of the 15th legislature.

House Bill 4, sponsored by Representatives Mike Davis, Fran Ulmer, Niilo Koponen, Johnny Ellis, Kay Brown, Dave Donley and Cliff Davidson sailed through the House with a resounding 33 to 2 vote on March 2, 1987. After nine weeks, two teleconferences and numerous scheduling delays, the bill passed out of Senate State Affairs. A last-minute measure to combine the Commission with two other agencies was introduced by Senator Paul Fischer on May 15 and forward action on House Bill 4 was halted.

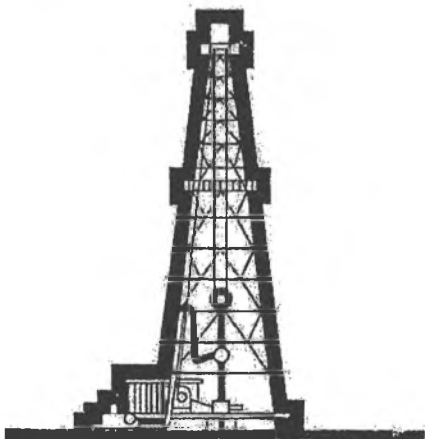
As of July 1, 1987, the Commission officially entered its "wind-down" year with a budget of \$196,800 — a 36 percent decrease from the previous fiscal year. With resources strapped and



a depleted publication budget, the Commission launched a concerted drive to develop a statewide speaker's bureau.

Commissioners and staff have stepped up their efforts to bring the results of the Commission's research to as many people as possible. Hundreds of people have been reached personally,

many thousands more through print and other media. The commitment and dedication to fostering equity have not diminished, and the Commission and its advocates will be back in January 1988 to urge swift passage of HB4 and reinstatement of the Commission's budget.



☛ *At the current price of oil, only 9 minutes of pipeline flow would fund the entire annual budget of the Alaska Women's Commission.* ☚

## The Question of a Merger

During the first session of the 15th Alaska Legislature, suggestions were made to consolidate the Alaska Women's Commission with the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights and the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity.

The agencies involved are functionally dissimilar. They provide different services to distinct target populations. History demonstrates that consolidation of these agencies is unworkable.

In 1972 the advisory board functioning as a Women's Commission was abolished and its funds and responsibilities transferred to the Human Rights

Commission. Because of its own workload, the Human Rights Commission was unable to deal effectively with those responsibilities. In 1976, the shocking results of the *Preliminary Study on the Status of Women in Alaska* (a study commissioned by the Alaska State Legislature) led to the creation of a separate and independent Women's Commission. Since its creation in 1978, the Alaska Women's Commission's success and widespread recognition are fitting testimony to the need for a separate, independent commission targeted to a unique population distinct from that served by either the

Human Rights Commission or the Office of EEO.

Governor Steve Cowper, the members of the Human Rights Commission and the Alaska Women's Commission, Representative Mike Davis (prime sponsor of AWC's reauthorization bill) and the membership of the Alaska Federation of Natives at their annual convention, are among the dozens of individuals and organizations who have opposed consolidation of these agencies.

The chart below illustrates the major differences among the agencies in question.

|                      | Alaska Women's Commission  | Human Rights Commission  | Office of Equal Employment Opportunity  |
|----------------------|--|--|---|
| Enabling Legislation | 44.19.165-180  | AS 18.80.010-300   | 44.19.441-449   |
| Type of Agency       | Research, Advocacy and Education   | Enforcement  | Administrative and Compliance   |
| Purpose              | To implement the recommendations in the preliminary study of the status of women in Alaska mandated by the 9th legislature.<br><br>To improve the status of women in Alaska by further research and by implementing additional recommendations on the opportunities, needs, problems and contributions of women in Alaska. | To prevent and eliminate discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, physical or mental disability, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, parenthood and age in public and private sector employment, public accommodations, housing, finance and credit, and practices by the state and its political subdivisions. | To ensure fair employment practices in state government and to ensure compliance with AS 44.19.441-449 and Administrative Orders 75 and 81;<br><br>To monitor the state affirmative action plan for the employment, retention and advancement of women, minorities, the handicapped, other disadvantaged workers;<br><br>To develop and administer the state's federally required internal equal employment opportunity programs. |
| Target Population    | The entire female population in Alaska.  | All persons and classes of persons suffering discrimination in Alaska.   | State employees, applicants for state employment, and former state employees.   |
| Commission           | Nine members and an ex officio member representing the attorney general's office who serve at the pleasure of the governor; commissioners not compensated for services.  | Seven public members appointed by the Governor for staggered five-year terms and confirmed by the legislature; commissioners not compensated for services.   | N/A   |

Alaska Women's  
Commission

Human Rights  
Commission

Office of Equal  
Employment Opportunity

|                              |  |   |  |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <b>Role of Commissioners</b> | <p>Bring diverse perspectives, including those of homemakers, and interest, knowledge, or experience in the issues.</p> <p>Hire an executive director and other staff necessary to the commission's function.</p> <p>Establish standing committees and taskforces to research and make recommendations on the status of women.</p> <p>Establish policy and program direction.</p>  | <p>Adjudicate cases of discrimination at public hearing and issue commission decisions and orders enforceable in court.</p> <p>Adopt regulations implementing and interpreting Alaska Human Rights Law.</p> <p>Appoint executive director approved by the governor and hire other staff.</p> <p>Establish policy and program direction.</p>   | N/A  |
| <b>Major Activities</b>      | <p>Conduct research, accumulate and compile data about discrimination against women;</p> <p>Study and analyze Alaska laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to equal protection for women;</p> <p>Disseminate the results of research and compilation of data by publications, public hearings, conferences and seminars;</p> <p>Recommend legislative and administrative action on equal treatment and opportunities for women;</p> <p>Act as clearinghouse and coordinating body for governmental and non-governmental information relating to the status of women in Alaska;</p> <p>Encourage the development of regional and municipal women's councils or commissions;</p> <p>Encourage women to assume leadership roles, and conduct joint efforts to study and resolve women's problems with public and private sector agencies.</p> | <p>Accept complaints of discrimination from public; executive director may file on behalf of persons;</p> <p>Identify and eliminate discriminatory policies and practices of major impact;</p> <p>Conduct impartial investigations and attempt early resolution of cases;</p> <p>Determine violations of Human Rights Law and conciliate cases of discrimination;</p> <p>Obtain relief for complainants (back pay, lost jobs, pay differentials, a bias free workplace and other remedies);</p> <p>Counsel inquirers about Human Rights Law and redirect them to other sources of redress;</p> <p>Inform the public about rights and provide technical assistance to employers, landlords, businesses, lending institutions, and state/local governments.</p> | <p>Assist state officials to carry out EEO responsibilities and train state managers and supervisors in affirmative action;</p> <p>Offer orientation programs to employees to inform them of their rights;</p> <p>Monitor state personnel practices, analyze workforce composition and implement performance evaluation standards for affirmative action requirements;</p> <p>Prepare federally mandated EEO reports and plans;</p> <p>Prepare the affirmative action plan for the executive branch and ensure agency compliance with affirmative action plans and programs;</p> <p>Assist the Division of Labor Relations in collective bargaining negotiations;</p> <p>Accept, investigate and resolve informal complaints;</p> <p>Serve as primary state liaison with civil rights agencies and with community groups;</p> <p>Recommend action to the Governor relating to affirmative action and report to the Governor and legislature on progress.</p> |
| <b>Major Issues</b>          | <p>Improving the status of women in Alaska; addressing the opportunities, needs, problems and contributions of Alaskan women. Issues include but are not limited to education, homemaking, civil and legal rights, labor and employment, health, economic equity, families and work, child care, family equity (divorce reform), welfare reform.</p>   | <p>Discriminatory discharge and unfair employment policies and practices, denial of jobs to minorities, women and the disabled, sexual harassment and racial bias in the workplace, pay equity for women, mandatory retirement, accessibility for the disabled.</p>   | <p>Equal employment opportunity and affirmative action in state employment practices;</p> <p>Meeting the federal EEO regulatory requirements as a condition for the state's receipt of federal funds.</p>  |
| <b>Type of Staffing</b>      | <p>3 full-time paid staff: one administrator/program developer, one researcher, one support staff, 1 part-time paid staff (Senior Employment Program);</p> <p>An additional 600 to 1,000 hours of volunteer time is donated each year;</p> <p>20 statewide women's organizations work on Commission issues and projects each year.</p>   | <p>19 full-time paid staff: 1 administrator, 1 staff attorney, 3 supervisors, 8 investigators, 1 docket officer, 5 support staff with headquarters in Anchorage and Juneau and Fairbanks field offices;</p> <p>Worksharing agreements with EEOC and HUD and the Anchorage Equal Rights Commission increase staff case processing capability.</p>  | <p>10 full-time paid staff: one administrator, six equal opportunity employment specialists, one data specialist, two support staff.</p>   |
| <b>Proposed FY89 Budget</b>  | <p>\$204,600 General Funds<br/>\$11,200 I/A Receipts</p>   | <p>\$945,700 General Funds<br/>\$88,900 Federal Receipts</p>  | <p>\$551,800 General Funds</p>   |

## Research in the Forefront: Family Equity



When the Alaska Women's Commission was first established in 1978, it faced an appalling lack of data and statistics. While the *Preliminary Report on the Status of Women in Alaska*, authored in 1976, was a goldmine of information, it could not begin to approach the detail needed to correct discriminatory laws and establish equitable policies across the board. It was for this reason that the legislature directed the Commission to conduct further research. Since that time the Commission has made research a priority.

Good research builds on earlier findings. Early Commission studies on the status of Alaskan homemakers and problems with child support enforcement have been supplemented by Commission analysis of the social and economic status of all Alaskan women, Native women in particular. Because of Commission research, it was discovered in 1984 that Alaskan women were earning only \$11,000 compared to \$22,000 earned by male counterparts.

In 1985 the Commission worked with the Alaska Bar Association to review all of the Alaska statutes to uncover numerous laws which diminished or jeopardized economic equity.

Setting out to correct these problems constituted the Commission's legislative platform of 1986. Commission research has been a catalyst for legislative advocacy and action.

Because education can open the door to better opportunity in life, in 1986 the Commission directed its research efforts to educational equity. Administrators throughout the educational system are working to improve their track records because of the 1986 report, "Commitment or Complacency?" which the Commission authored.

This year, 1987, saw the Commission turn its attention to the critical issue of family equity. Research from other areas in the country began to suggest that divorce reforms of earlier years were having unintended results. Women and children were being thrown into poverty because, it seemed, of the very efforts to make divorce laws more equitable.

The study of divorce and its economic impact on families is vitally important because of the number of people whose lives are affected by it. In Alaska, more than 11,000 people are affected each year, 3,000 of them children.

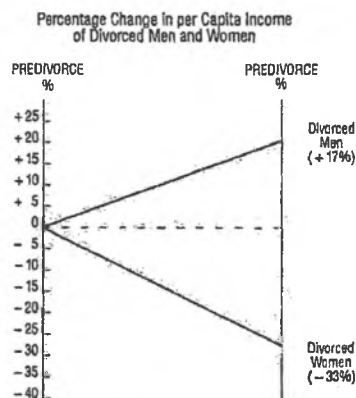
The results of the study, titled "Family Equity at Issue," were startling and disturbing. The Commission discovered that divorce in Alaska results in a significant drop in income for women and children. Men, on the other hand, usually benefit financially. Inadequate and poorly enforced child support awards, the near absence of alimony and unequal division of marital property are creating financial disaster for many women and their children.

Included in the findings was the alarming fact that the average child support award in Anchorage does not cover even half the cost of out-of-home day care (child care) necessary for most parents who work outside the home.

Without this most basic element of financial support, single mothers with custody of their children can hardly hope to raise themselves out of poverty.

The study confirmed the importance of continuing the Commission's efforts to change the laws regarding divorce and dissolution in Alaska. In an effort to tap all available resources, the Women's Commission has contacted the Alaska Judicial Council to explore whether that agency can collaborate with the Commission in expanding the research on family equity to a state-wide scope. It is essential to determine what impact divorce laws and procedures are having on the lives of rural women. Additional resources must be found to extend this research to rural Alaska, particularly since the Rural Research Agency no longer exists.

The results of the study on family equity have been presented to numerous groups throughout the state in an attempt to educate women and men regarding this critical issue. Future plans dependent on funding, include the development of brochures, videos and other materials to help people make more informed decisions when they go through a divorce.



## Education: A Year In Review

One of the major components of the Commission's work is public education, getting information out to thousands of women each year on what their rights and opportunities are. This year Commission members and staff provided, attended or sponsored seminars, workshops and educational events as far north as Barrow and as far west as Bethel.

### Commission-Sponsored Panels and Seminars

At each of its meetings during 1987, the Alaska Women's Commission invited community leaders and representatives to discuss issues of importance to women and families. These panels are offered as a dialogue between the Commission, policy makers and the public.

In March 1987, Senator Rick Halford, Representative Johnny Ellis, Commissioner Myra Munson, Barbara Miklos, Executive Director of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, and Sherrie Goll, lobbyist for the Alaska Women's Lobby, presented information on the Human Services Budget and how it impacts women and families.

In May 1987, now-Mayor Diane Carpenter, Cathy Feaster, director, Bethel Health Center, and Lorraine Beaver, head counselor, Tundra Women's Coalition Shelter, joined Commission member Mary Pete to discuss issues for women and children in Bethel and in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region of the state.

In September 1987, Assistant Commissioner Karen Perdue presented and discussed Welfare Reform with the Commission and the public.

Members of statewide women's organizations were invited to participate in a Commission sponsored seminar on Public Speaking at the September meeting as well.



Panelists Sherrie Goll, Rep. Johnnie Ellis, Sen. Rick Halford, Myra Munson and Barbara Miklos discuss budget cuts at the March 1987 Commission meeting in Juneau.



Members of women's organizations joined commissioners and staff for an October 1987 training session on effective public speaking.

### Women's Legal Rights

In Alaska, women have the legal right to be treated equally with men. Yet, in practice, women often face problems obtaining that right. Nearly 100 women and men attended a free, one-day conference entitled "Legal Rights for Women" to learn more about women and the law. Sponsored by the Alaska Women's Commission, the conference was held at the Anchorage Community College Campus Center on Saturday, April 25th.

Local experts presented vital information on many legal issues of concern to women. Participants attended sessions on topics as wide ranging as divorce and dissolution, job discrimination, domestic violence, sexual harass-

ment, juvenile law, welfare and other legal entitlement programs, property and custody issues, and equal employment opportunity.

Highpoints of the conference included keynote addresses on women's legal rights by Patty Kastelic, Executive Assistant to Governor Steve Cowper, and Nancy Gordon, Assistant Attorney General. Kastelic's comments focused on the historical perspective of women's rights. Gordon discussed recent Supreme Court decisions and their impact on women in Alaska.

Responses from conference participants reflect the need for continued opportunities to provide legal information to women.

## Women's History Month

For the second year in a row, the Alaska Women's Commission distributed its "Celebration Series" portraying the lives and accomplishments of thirty Alaskan women. All television stations in the state carried the series of biographical spots during Women's History Month.

The profiles are representative of thousands of women whose courage and determination to make a difference inspire us all to strive for excellence. The "celebration stories" are made possible by a grant from the National Bank of Alaska.

Listed below are the women whose accomplishments were profiled in this Commission series.

Orah Dee Clark, Founder of Anchorage Schools; Mary Louise Rasmuson, Women's Army Corps and Arts Patron; Harriet Pullen, Skagway Entrepreneur; Erinia Callahan, Gold Miner; Mary Antisarlook, Reindeer Herder; Irene Ryan, Geologist; Lil Angerman, Union Organizer; Blanche McSmith, Activist; Rusty Dow, Truck Driver; Nettie Jones Ellison, Ketchikan Native Who Fought Discrimination; Lorene Harrison, Musician and Educator; Dora Keen and Barbara Washburn, Mountaineers; Lucy Cuddy, Teacher and First Bank Board Chairwoman; Marie Drake and Elinor Dusenbury, Alaska Elag Song Composers; Della Keats, Healer; Sadie Neakok, Magistrate; Margaret Murie, Arctic Explorer; Lydia Fohn-Hanson, Pioneer Homemaker; Amanda McFarland, Missionary; Edith Bullock, Tug and Barge Operator; Frances Howard, First Woman State Trooper; Evangeline Atwood, Author and Statehood Organizer; Barrett Willoughby, Author; Isabelle Barnett, Co-Founder of Fairbanks; Nell Scott, First Woman Legislator; Mahala Ashley Dickerson, Attorney; Pioneer Women Aviators; Women's Voting Rights; Women of the Constitutional Convention; Sisters of Providence and St. Ann.

## In Passing:

1987 saw the passing of statehood advocate and Alaskan historian Evangeline Atwood.

Born of Swedish missionaries, Atwood started many organizations in Alaska including the Alaska Statehood Association, the Anchorage P.T.A., the League of Women Voters and Alaskan World Affairs Council.

Profiled by the Commission in its "Celebration Series," Atwood worked to preserve the history of the state in her books and columns. Her books help us all to better appreciate and understand the history of the people and the state.

## Alaska State Association of Colored Women's Clubs Holds State Convention



Christine Callahan updates convention delegates on HB4.

Patricia Ray was elected to serve as President of the organization for an additional two-year term at the Association's fourth biennial state convention in April 1987 in Anchorage.

Christine Callahan, executive director of the Alaska Women's Commission, addressed convention delegates on Commission legislation and activities.

## Business And Professional Women's Clubs Honor National Vice President

In September 1987 the Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Alaska honored the national first vice president of the organization with a dinner in Anchorage. La Verne Collins, a member of the Anchorage Women's Commission, was elected to this post in 1987 and is working to effect change in national policies that impact women

and families. She gave a stirring speech on parental leave and how to make it a national reality. "It has been said that this country does not have a family policy but I disagree," Collins said. "It does. Families are ON THEIR OWN." Along with the coalition of women's organizations working on this issue, BPW hopes to change that.



L. to R. Janet Bradley, Executive Director of the Alaska Human Rights Commission; Joy Green-Armstrong, Vice-Chair of the Alaska Women's Commission; La Verne Collins, First Vice President of Business and Professional Women's Clubs of America; and Christine Callahan, Executive Director of the Women's Commission share a moment at the dinner honoring Collins.

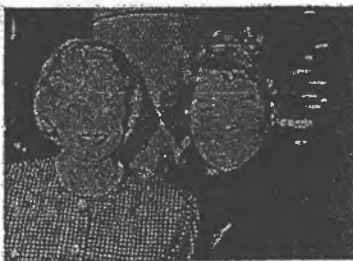
## National Association of Commissions for Women

Paula Ziegler attended the June 1987 meeting of the National Association of Commissions for Women in Lexington, Kentucky as the Commission's representative. She attended sessions on the work force in the year 2,000 and implications for women, and on the implementation of pay equity in number of states. Ziegler had the opportunity to meet with Shirley Dennis, the chief of the Women's Bureau, about pending Welfare Reform legislation.



Jeannine Dowling, left, director of public affairs for Phillip Morris U.S.A., and Paula Ziegler, Chair of the Alaska Women's Commission, joined more than 120 delegates from commissions across the United States and Puerto Rico at the 18th annual convention of the National Association of Commissions for Women in June 1987.

## Women and the Constitution



Sandra Day O'Connor and Kay Linton at the Anchorage celebration of the Constitutional bicentennial, September 1987.

Celebrations surrounding the bicentennial of the Constitution of the United States were highlighted by the presence of Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who spoke to a standing-room-only crowd at the Loussac Library in Anchorage in September 1987. Kay Linton, the past president of the Alaska Federation of Women's Clubs, has attempted to bring Justice O'Connor to Alaska for years. She succeeded this year in organizing this event for the Friends of the Library, on whose board of directors she currently serves.

The Alaska Women's Commission helped publicize and "broadcast" Justice O'Connor's appearance so that as many women as possible could attend this historic event.

## Transitions

In October 1987 Kris Chatfield stepped down from her position as Chair of the Alaska Women's Commission. Elected to chair the group in September 1986, Chatfield has made extraordinary contributions to the Commission's work since her appointment by Governor Sheffield in September 1983.

Serving first as the Commission's Vice-Chair from 1984 through 1986, Chatfield chaired the Program Commit-

## The View from the Top of the World

In Barrow, the North Slope Borough Health Department, Substance Abuse and Treatment Service sponsored "A Delicate Balance — A Conference for Women" on September 25 & 26. Over 125 women from villages throughout the North Slope Borough attended workshops on family concerns, legal issues, health care and women's roles.

Christine Callahan, Commission Executive Director, and Charlotte Brower, former member of the Alaska

Women's Commission, conducted a workshop with the entire conference group on how to establish an effective local women's commission.

The conference participants elected Charlotte Brower and Elsie Itta to a steering committee to recruit applicants for the North Slope Borough Women's Commission. Jeanne Cross of the Abused Women in Crisis program will serve as an alternate on the recruitment committee.



L. to R. Elsie Itta, Jeanne Cross and Charlotte Brower plan recruitment efforts for the North Slope Borough Women's Commission, September 1987.

tee and served on the Native Issues Task Force. She helped craft the Commission's legislative agenda and was instrumental in helping to promote issues to the public through use of the media. She co-chaired the steering committee of the 1985 Statewide Women's Conference and helped make that huge undertaking an unqualified success. Kris will complete her term as a Commissioner in June 1988.

Christine Callahan, left, presents gavel to outgoing chairperson Kris Chatfield.



## Education — Support

### Speakers' Bureau

Providing information about the condition of women to the general public is essential to improving the status of women. In 1987, the Commissioners and staff gave 89 presentations and media interviews to present information on women's issues. Following is a list of the topics addressed by various organizations:

#### Divorce Research

Federal Aviation Administration Federal Women's Program

#### Forming a local women's council

North Slope Borough Women's Conference

#### Legislative Platform

Bering Sea Women's Group; Federal Aviation Administration Federal Women's Program; Soroptimists, Anchorage; Alaska Native Health Services / Federal Women's Program; Church Women United; First Congregational Christian Women's Fellowship; Business and Professional Women's Club, Fairbanks; American Association of University Women, Fairbanks; National Organization of Women Regional Conference; Soroptimists, Juneau; Business and Professional Women, Anchorage; Alaska Assoc. of Colored Women's Club; Alaska Women's Political Caucus; Business and Professional Women; League of Women Voters; Human Rights Commission; Business and Professional Women, Juneau; Republican Association of Professional and Business Women; Alaska Bar Association; Kenai Women's Coalition; Alaska Federation of Natives

#### Minority Women

Alaska Women's Resource Center; LaVerne University

#### Pay Equity

Unitarian Fellowship

#### Women's History

American Assoc. of University Women

### Information And Referral

The Alaska Women's Commission increasingly has become a clearing-house for information on services, programs, legislation, and issues which relate to women's concerns in the state of Alaska today.

In 1987, 1,206 calls and/or walk-in contacts were received on a wide range of topics. A predominant number of requests were for statistical and research information on Alaskan women. These requests came from individuals, legislators, educators, attorneys, researchers, the media, and other groups. Listed below are the number of requests by topic.

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Commission programs/events..... | 159 |
| Children .....                  | 37  |
| Economics .....                 | 32  |

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Small Business .....            | 23  |
| Education .....                 | 54  |
| Employment .....                | 74  |
| Health .....                    | 25  |
| Legal & civil rights .....      | 113 |
| Legislation .....               | 157 |
| Minority women .....            | 43  |
| Older women .....               | 18  |
| Politics .....                  | 47  |
| Requests for Publications ..... | 200 |
| Violence/Sexual Assault .....   | 19  |
| Media contacts .....            | 46  |
| Women in history .....          | 49  |
| Other contacts .....            | 110 |

The Commission also maintains a resource library of more than 500 books, periodicals, and files on issues affecting women. All materials are available to the general public.

### Media Presentations

#### Divorce Research

KTUU Television Anchorage  
"Newsmakers"  
KTVA Television Anchorage  
"Viewpoint"  
KTVA Television Anchorage  
Anchorage Daily News  
Anchorage Times  
Alaska Public Radio Network  
Fairbanks News Miner  
Frontiersman, Wasilla/Palmer  
KENI Radio Anchorage  
Associated Press  
Ketchikan Daily News  
Juneau Empire

#### Legislative Platform

KTUU Television Anchorage  
"Newsmakers"  
KTVA Television Anchorage  
"Viewpoint"  
KNOM Radio, Nome  
Anchorage Daily News  
Anchorage Times  
Associated Press  
Ketchikan Daily News  
Juneau Empire

#### Legislative Research

Alaska Public Radio Network

#### Maternity Leave

Fairbanks News Miner

#### Women's History Profiles

KTUU Television Anchorage  
"Newsmakers"  
KTVA Television Anchorage  
Anchorage Daily News  
Anchorage Times  
Fairbanks News Miner  
KTOO - Juneau  
KAKM Television, Anchorage  
KYUK Television, Bethel  
KUAC Television, Fairbanks  
KJUD Television, Juneau  
KTNL Television, Sitka

## Publications

### 1987 Commission Publications

**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. (508 dist.)

**Family Equity at Issue: Research Summary.** (2,258 dist.)

**Directory of Women's Organizations.** Statewide directory of women's organizations. (175 dist.)

**Newsletter: Status Report.** Provides information on state and federal legislation, programs, services and issues that pertain to equity for women. It is provided free of charge to approximately 2500 individuals and organizations. (4,700 dist.)

**Highlights of the Alaska Women's Commission.** Historical summary of events, activities and actions of the Commission. (790 dist.)

**Position Paper: Status of HB4.** Updates the status and progress of the Commission reauthorization bill. (165 dist.)

### Additional Commission Publications

**Profiles in Change: Names, Notes and Quotes for Alaskan Women.** (1983) Profiles of 60 Alaskan women who have contributed to the State's economic, social, and political development. The publication includes journal pages for the reader to record reflections and impressions. (394 dist.)

**Report on the Economic Status of Alaska Native Women.** (1983) Findings from the study of the economic condition of Alaska Native Women, with actions recommended to improve their economic status. (46 dist.)

**Summary of the Report on the Economic Status of Alaska Native Women.** (1983) (61 dist.)

**Women in Labor Unions: Seminar Report.** (1984) 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. Includes profiles of speakers, descriptions of workshops and a list of participants. (21 dist.)

**Women's Legal Rights in Alaska.** (1984) Outlines legal rights affecting women in Alaska in such areas as employment, credit, inheritance, adoption, marriage, divorce, criminal law and violence against women. (470 dist.)

**Alaska Women: A Databook.** (1984) Demographic profile of Alaska Women based upon the 1980 Census; includes statistical appendix. (59 dist.)

**A Review of the Alaska Statutes for Sex Discrimination.** (1985) Final report of the comprehensive review of Alaska Statutes. (77 dist.)

**A Sense of History: A Reference Guide to Alaska's Women 1896-1985.** (1985) An annotated bibliography of books, articles, audio-visual aids, and photo displays about Alaska women in history. (75 dist.)

**At the Edge of Opportunity: A State-wide Conference on Women, The Economy and Public Policy.** (1985) A summary of the workshops, activities, and recommendations from the March 1985 conference. (42 dist.)

**Commitment or Complacency?** (1986) An assessment of sex equity in Alaska's educational institutions with recommendations for future action. (124 dist.)

**Making a Difference: A Primer for Women in Public Life.** (1986) A handbook for political involvement. Includes information on campaign planning, voter contact, and working with volunteers. (172 dist.)

**Regional Conferences 1986.** (1986) Activities and recommendations from the rural women's conferences funded by the Commission in 1986—Bethel, Huslia, Sitka, and Wasilla. (456 dist.)

**Women in Prison: Does the Justice System Do Them Justice?.** (1986) A report on the current status of female offenders in Alaska and the United States. (109 dist.)

**Annual Report 1986.** (1986) A review of the major accomplishments of the Women's Commission from January 1 to December 31, 1986. (886 dist.)

### Brochures and Fact Sheets:

**Alaska Women's Commission.** (1984) (269 dist.)

**Alaska Women: A Profile.** (1984) (272 dist.)

**Alaska Women in Politics.** (1984) (247 dist.)

**Alaska Women & Education.** (1985) (195 dist.)

**Alaska Women & Insurance.** (1985) (170 dist.)

**Alaska Women & Pensions.** (1985) (190 dist.)

**In Celebration of Alaskan Women.** (1986) (25 dist.)

### Posters:

**Legal Rights for Women Conference.** (1986) Announcements of conference on legal rights for women held in Anchorage. (4000 dist.)

**Families—A Shared Experience.** ((1983)) Multi-colored poster aimed at a young audience, emphasizing non-sexist choices in career and family living. (70 dist.)

**Be What You Want to Be.** (1984) Multi-colored poster aimed at a young audience, emphasizing non-sexist choices in career and family living. (85 dist.)

**Women: Alaska Women's Commission.** (1984) (37 dist.)

**Women in Alaska History.** (1986) (175 dist.)

Total Distributed

17,363

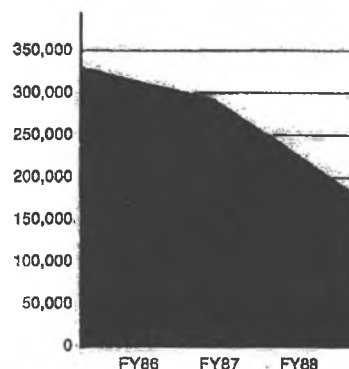
## The Budget—A Successful Public-Private Partnership

The FY87 Commission budget was \$262,600. Of this amount, \$251,500 was state general funds and \$11,100 was a federal grant which enabled the Commission to hire a Senior Employee in a job-readiness training program.

This amount was supplemented by generous in-kind donations of time, expertise and services from a large number of individuals, businesses, professionals and organizations. The Commission is at the forefront of state agencies in successfully pursuing alternative and creative sources of support. In fact, the reason the Commission has produced the quantity and quality of work for which it is known has been a successful public-private partnership involving countless volunteers.

In 1987 more than \$22,000 of in-kind volunteer services were donated to Commission projects. Including all alternative sources of revenue and in-kind services, the Commission generated more than \$100,000 in additional programmatic money to supplement its state budget.

In 1988 the Commission anticipates receiving a state budget of approximately \$200,000, losing nearly 25% of its base funds. Reductions of this type have occurred over each of the past three years. Each major reduction of the basic programmatic and staff budget also reduces the Commission's ability to seek and secure additional sources of revenue.



The budget for the Alaska Women's Commission authorized by the legislature has declined by nearly 40% since FY86.

### Upcoming Events

February 6—Alaska Women's Political Caucus will be holding its annual meeting in Anchorage. A distinguished panel of former women candidates will be discussing "When Winners Don't Win." Election and installment of new officers will follow the panel discussion. For further information call 277-1330.

February 21-24—Power of Politics and Government in Washington D.C. will be the first of three seminars on Power in America sponsored by the educational Foundation for Women's Resources. The seminars will provide opportunities to strengthen individual leadership skills and create avenues for women leaders to exert their influence and talents. For more information contact (703) 549-1102.

March—Women's History Month in Alaska. The Commission's T.V. spots on "Profiles of Alaskan Women" will air in communities throughout the state. Contact local women's organizations for other activities scheduled within your community.

March 3-5—Juneau residents can take a one-credit course in Women's History at the University of Alaska, Southeast. Registration is \$15.00

March 5—Staying Power, Part I. A conference to unite and encourage women in their personal, professional and political lives will be held in Anchorage. This conference will discuss issues that unite all women and will create an action agenda to sustain the quest for equity in Alaska.

The conference will also prepare participants for Staying Power, Part II in October. Nationally known Bella Abzug and Shirley Chisholm will join other renowned speakers to inspire a recommitment to activism among professional women. Musical artist, Libby Roderick will also appear in concert.

Both conferences are sponsored by the University of Alaska, Anchorage, Alaska Pacific University and both the Alaska and Anchorage Women's Commissions. Call 786-1060.

March 14-16—Alaska Women's Commission will meet in Juneau.

March 17-18—Making Choices for Your Future, a leadership conference for young minority women will be sponsored by the Anchorage School District. Topics will include preparation for careers, peer pressure, self esteem, sex and race bias, health issues and communication with parents. For more information contact Jean Marie Crumb at 269-2265.

March 19—Women's Health Fair will be held in Juneau. Free health screening and health education will be provided.

March 25-27—Women: Exploring Options, Building Our Dreams, is the theme of Kodiak's women's conference. Sponsored by the Kodiak Area Native Association, the conference will feature as its keynote speakers, Senator Arliss Sturgulewski, Rosita Worl and Christine Callahan, Executive Director of the Alaska Women's Commission.

April 14-16—Southeast Alaska Native Women's Conference will be held in Juneau. Contact Patty Adkisson at 789-3377.

# Action Agenda Survey

1988 marks the 10th anniversary of the Alaska Women's Commission. Over the past decade the Commission has witnessed dramatic changes resulting from its efforts in research, education and legislative advocacy to improve the status of women. The challenge now before us is to insure that the equity gained can be preserved and that appropriate social change can continue into the future. Targeting issues and concerns important to Alaskan women is essential if we are to continue achieving these results.

This survey solicits your viewpoint about issues important to women of Alaska, issues that personally concern you or which affect your community or the entire state of Alaska. The survey also asks how effective you believe the Women's Commission has been in addressing issues through its activities. By completing this survey, you will provide important direction to the Women's Commission as it establishes its Action Agenda for the 90's.

## Issues

Under each of the following issues prioritize your top three concerns using a number scale, where #1 is the highest, #2 is of lesser priority and so on. Please include any other issues of concern if not stated.

### FAMILY EQUITY

- Child support
- Child custody
- Equal credit opportunity
- Homemaker's rights
- Equity in divorce laws
- Other (please explain):

### CHILD CARE

- Employer sponsored child care
- Publicly-subsidized child care
- Parental Leave
- State regulations of quality and licensing
- Affordability
- Latch key
- Other (please explain):

### ECONOMIC

- Housing-affordability
- Insurance and pensions
- Economic development
- Loan programs for women-owned businesses
- Employment, job creation
- Employment discrimination
- Welfare Reform
- Pay equity
- Other (please explain):

### EDUCATION

- Access to education and training
- Educational equity
- Affordability of education
- Other (please explain):

### JUSTICE

- Child abuse
- Domestic violence/sexual assault
- Victims' rights
- Women in prison
- Gender bias in the courts
- Other (please explain):

### HEALTH

- Teen pregnancy
- Reproductive rights
- Occupational health hazards
- Alcohol and substance abuse
- Other (please explain):

## Commission Activities

The Alaska Women's Commission provides education, research and advocacy to improve the status of women. Please rate their value to you.

EDUCATION — Indicate whether you attended any of the following conferences and rate their value to you.

|  | Attended                 |                          | Value |   |   |      |   |     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|---|---|------|---|-----|
|  | Yes                      | No                       | Low   |   |   | High |   |     |
| Legal Rights Conference, Anchorage, 1987                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4    | 5 | N/A |
| Women In Prison, Juneau, 1986  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4    | 5 | N/A |
| Making a Difference: A Primer for Women In Public Life, Fairbanks, 1986      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4    | 5 | N/A |
| Regional Women's Conferences held in Bethel, Huslia, Sitka and Wasilla, 1986 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4    | 5 | N/A |
| At the Edge of Opportunity: A Statewide Women's Conference, March, 1985      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4    | 5 | N/A |

What are your suggestions for future conferences?

Indicate whether you received the following informational reports and materials published by the Commission and rate their value to you.

|  | Received                 |                          | Value |   |   |      |   |     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|---|---|------|---|-----|
|  | Yes                      | Report/<br>Material      | Low   |   |   | High |   |     |
| Status Report Newsletter   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4    | 5 | N/A |
| Women's Legal Rights Handbook  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4    | 5 | N/A |
| Making A Difference: A Primer for Women In Public Life, 1986                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4    | 5 | N/A |
| Regional Conferences 1986  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4    | 5 | N/A |
| Women In Prison: Does the Justice System Do Them Justice, 1986                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4    | 5 | N/A |
| Directory of Women's Organizations   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4    | 5 | N/A |
| Profiles In Change: Names, Notes and Quotes for Alaskan Women                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4    | 5 | N/A |
| A Sense of History: A Reference Guide to Alaska's Women 1896-1985                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4    | 5 | N/A |
| Fact Sheets: Women in Politics, Demographic Profile of Women, Education, Insurance, Pensions | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4    | 5 | N/A |
| Posters  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4    | 5 | N/A |

RESEARCH — Rate the value of the following research performed by the Women's Commission.

|   | Value of Research |   |   |   |      | N/A |
|---|-------------------|---|---|---|------|-----|
|   | Low               |   |   |   | High |     |
| Family Equity at issue: A Study of the Economic Consequences of Divorce on Women & Children | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5    | N/A |
| Commitment or Complacency: An Assessment Of Sex Equity in Alaska's Educational Institutions | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5    | N/A |
| Review of Alaska Statutes for Sex Discrimination  | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5    | N/A |
| Alaska Women: A Databook  | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5    | N/A |
| A Report on the Economic Status of Alaska Native Women                                      | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5    | N/A |

What are your suggestions for future research?

---

ADVOCACY — Indicate the value of the following legislative proposals advocated by the Alaska Women's Commission.

|  | Value of Advocacy |   |   |   |      | N/A |
|--|-------------------|---|---|---|------|-----|
|  | Low               |   |   |   | High |     |
| HB4 - Extension of the Alaska Women's Commission | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5    | N/A |
| HB189 - Equity in divorce laws                   | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5    | N/A |
| HB224 & SB124 - Parental leave provisions        | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5    | N/A |

What are your suggestions for other legislative proposals?

---

Rate the value of the following advocacy services.

|  | Value of Advocacy |   |   |   |      | N/A |
|--|-------------------|---|---|---|------|-----|
|  | Low               |   |   |   | High |     |
| Development of Women's Councils: - Anchorage, Juneau, Sitka, Barrow  | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5    | N/A |
| Development of Coalition of Women's Organization (LAWS) to advocate legislative and policy Issues important to women | 1                 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5    | N/A |

Rate the overall value of services the Alaska Women's Commission provided in the following areas.

|           | Value of Service |   |   |   |      | N/A |
|-----------|------------------|---|---|---|------|-----|
|           | Low              |   |   |   | High |     |
| Research  | 1                | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5    | N/A |
| Education | 1                | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5    | N/A |
| Advocacy  | 1                | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5    | N/A |

Please indicate the community in which you reside \_\_\_\_\_

Other Comments \_\_\_\_\_

This is a self-mailing survey. Please fold and staple, no postage is required.

fold along line

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Anchorage, AK 99503



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# Thanks

There are hundreds of people, organizations and businesses who helped the Alaska Women's Commission accomplish its goals in 1987. Thanks to all of those in Houston, Wasilla, Wrangell, Sitka, Kenai-Soldotna, Homer, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Port Alexander, North Pole, Kodiak, Bethel, Nome, Barrow, Fairbanks, Eagle River, Kotzebue, Juneau and Anchorage who contributed time, money or support to the Commission's efforts. Thanks especially to the following for their contribution to conferences, workshops, legislative advocacy, seminars, research and media projects and/or to the effort to extend the Commission's life and work until 1991.

Governor Steve Cowper • Rep. Mike Davis, Prime sponsor HB4 • Rep. Fran Ulmer, Co-sponsor HB4 • Rep. Niilo Koponen, Co-sponsor HB4 • Rep. Johnny Ellis, Co-sponsor HB4 • Rep. Kay Brown, Co-sponsor HB4 • Rep. Dave Donley, Co-sponsor HB4 • Rep. Cliff Davidson, Co-sponsor HB4 • Abused Women's Aid in Crisis • Alaska Assoc. of Colored Women's Clubs • Alaska Bar Assoc. • Alaska Court System • Alaska Division of Vital Records • Alaska Federation of Business and Professional Women, Inc. • Alaska Foundation for Youth and Parents • Alaska Home Economics Assoc. • Alaska Legal Services • Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault • Alaska Nurses' Assoc. • Alaska State Commission for Human Rights • Alaska Women's Lobby • Alaska Women's Resource Center • Alaska Women's Political Caucus • American Assoc. of University Women • Anchorage Community College Center for Women and Men • Anchorage Women's Commission • Blacks in Government • Church Women United • Cinamatech • Division of Child Support Enforcement • Family Community Leadership Program • Federal Women's Programs • First Congregational Christian Women's Fellowship • Henry Lancaster, Inc. • Johnson and Holen • Juneau Bar Assoc. • Juneau Women's Council • Kay, Saville, Coffey, Hopwood and Schmid • League of Women Voters, Alaska • Mother's Christian Fellowship • National Education Assoc. — Women's Caucus • National Organization for Women • North Slope Borough Dept. of Health and Social Services, Substance Abuse Treatment Service • Native Women of Alaska • Office of Public Advocacy • Older Alaskans Commission • Pay Equity Coalition • Reese, Rice and Volland • Republican Assoc. of Professional and Business Women • Social Research Institute • Soroptomists International Clubs • S.T.A.R. (Standing Together Against Rape) • The Growth Company • Thwaites and Motyka • United Methodist Women • United Way of Anchorage • Videoplex • Katie Hurley • Ann Matthew-Johansen • Dorothy Jones • Joan Cottman Coston • Candy Rutledge • Kathleen Tarr • Laurel A. Murphy • Thelma G. Buchholdt • Jan Erickson • Ruth Lister • Heather Flynn • Sonya LaMarr • Janet M. Campbell • Charlotte Brower • Jan Foster • Gay Leslie • Thelma Langdon • Ann Skoe • Susan Clark • Julia Ayer • Barbara Brazington • Julie Spratt • Laurie Anderson • Sue Ayer • Brenda Sokolowski • Kimbra Truby • Nancy Peters • Nathana Kayutak-Suel • Mary Grisco • Ginger Halterman • Diana Wood • Janet Creeps • Grace West • Marcia McKenzie • Sylvia Fink • Paula Easley • Mayor John Williams • Lidia Selkregg • Caleb Pungowiyi • Janet Kowalski • Cecelia "Pudge" Kleinkauf • Ilene Sackett • Jody Marcello • Naomi Stockdale • Carole Greene • Kathryn Lizik • Karla Forsythe • Marilyn Helman • Donna Williams • Sharon Macklin • Susan Clarke • Kathy Marshall • Mayor Diane Carpenter • Cathy Feaster • Eileen Brewer • Bonnie Jack • Rhonda Roberts • Elizabeth Hickerson • Lois Knapp • Lorraine Beaver • Karla Huntington • Joanne F. Lopez • LaVerne Collins • Jean F. Craclun • Carrie D. Longoria • Joyce M. Rivers • Jana Varrati • Carol Waters • Elaine Hopson • Karen Rich • Carla Timpone • Carol Jorgenson • Jane Evanson • Glen Ray • Fred Jenkins • Peggy Burgin • James E. Fischer • Mia Oxley • Sherrie Goll • Pat Corbett • Roberta Graham • Marla Huss • Peggy Rogers • Anne Jansen • Ruth McKenzie • Charo Wongtillin • Karen Kirby • Drena McIntyre • Sheila Nickerson • Pam Van Wechel • Wanda Jansen • Margaret Hall • Bernice Linn • Susan Alexander • Mary Welch • Emmie White • Joan Bennett Schrader • Sandra Armstrong • Deanne L. Adams • Susan McClear • Marilyn George • Jan McCrimmon • Christina Loris • Mary Jane Landstrom • Jill Cunningham • Barbara Miklos • Margo Waring • Patty Kastelic • Karen Perdue • Susan Heavey • Jeanne Cross • Victoria Eubank • Mary Katzke • Janet Bradley • Ann Brazeale • Cheryl Thompson • Sandra Saville • Marge Hays • Sammy Crawford • Myra Munson • Marsha Hubbard • Vera Hollingshead • Pamela Tesche • Leila Wise • Lynne Curry-Swann • Rae Maness • Sharon Richards • Alicia Iden • Hazel Heath • Susan McGinnis • Barbara Schuhmann • Leslie Bogda • Marcia Johnson • Sarah Jordan • Mary Monroe • Jean Marie Crumb • Bea Halkett • Nancy Gordon • Marlou Shea • Teresa Sockpealuk-Perry • Gall K. Ewanoff • C.R. Dotson • Della Iyapana • Johnny Leonard • Louie Weyopuk • Arlene Adam • John Iyapana, Sr. • Emily Hughes • Perry Mendenhall • Marilyn Koezuna-Irean • Isaac Okleasik Jr. • Ken Shoogukwruk • Robert S. Amarok • Rebecca Craven • Mary Miller • Lillian Panipchuk • Doreen Buffas • Bessie Piscoya • Eileen Norbert • Nellie Olanna • Betty Hannigan • Bernice Alfred • Brenda Gologergen • Jeanette S. Carter • Leona Schlick • Kathy Holmes • Maggie Kawchee • Maggie Ferry • Josephine Stiles • Vera Metcalf • Lola Tobuk • Nancy Mendenhall • Leora Kenick • Theresa Lane • Rev. James E. Poole • Kathy Johnson • Lillian Tiulana • Susan Alexander • Sister Claire Gagnon • Vivian Teeland • Norma Goodman • Beverly Michaels • Susan Humphrey-Barnett • Elaine Atwood • Suzan Nightingale • Pat Hiebert • Pat Berkley • Mickey Sleeper • Cathy Rasmuson • Esther Combs • Carolyn Guess • Andonia Harrison • Diane Benson • Janie Leask • Bonnie Bernholz • Roberta Sheldon • Laurel Cuddy Stutzer • Gloria Marinacci Allen • Gloria Pushruk • Suzanne Perry • Marianne McNabb • Marcia Ellingboe • Pauline S. Lee • J.K. Brown • Cynthia Lee Mathisen • Catherine Lee Barth • Ronn Buschmann • Gloria E. Shurine • Charlotte Tanner • Elder Lee • Harold Bergmann • Cheri G. Greer • Paul W. Bowen • Tyler Henshaw • Eli Ribich • Carolyn I. Pritchett • Suzanne Paulsen • Neva J. Bowen • Dortha T. Claypool • Linda Henshaw • Claire Strand • Kerri Gregg • Alyce Todd • Ruth W. Sandvik • Victoria McDonald • John A. McDonald • Susan B. Kittams • Jay A. Kittams • Diane S. Hoelting • Kurt Hoelting • Rebecca J. Knight • Janet Dait • Linda Martinson • Roxanne L. Lee • Harold M. Lee • Tom Greer • Anne Lee • D.P. Buschmann • Dianne J. Dzur • Miriam A. Hubbard • Nancy Berg • B. Joyce Jenkins • Roxann M. Dunham • Marilyn E. George • Marian Estelle • Marjorie F. Paust • M. Edgington • Karl Johnson • Jean Remund • Mary Kay Reynolds • Karen Smith • Judith Wallan • Linda Wallan • Jackie Garneck • Lorraine Hughes • Phyllis Mulligan • Mike Stempe • Bud Jodway • Nelson Leroy • Pam & Bill Jenkins • Joanne F. Lopez • Deborah Kloby, D.C. • Richard Newman, D.C. • Cheryl Mann • Evelyn Ramos • Lee Holen • Mark Erttschek • John Reese • Terri Pollock • Holli Ploog • Sheila Gaddis • Nancy Hopperstad • Bill Hitchcock • Henry Lancaster • Frances Purdy • Dick Thwaites • Linda Becher • J. McCarthy • Carla Grosch • Hilary Hardwick

## A Job Well Done

LaVerne Collins of Anchorage was recently elected first vice-president of the National Association of Business and Professional Women's Clubs of America.

Adele Bacon, state plumbing inspector in Fairbanks was recently installed as the first woman Vice-President of the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials. Bacon was also Alaska's first apprentice graduate in plumbing and the state's first female plumbing inspector.

Newly elected women mayors include: Valerie Bergman, Allakaket; Diane Carpenter, Bethel; Dora Ahkinga, Diomedea; Maggie Scholtz, Goodnews Bay; Liv Gray, Hoonah; Marcella Padie, Houston; Elinor Okavik, Napaskiak; Carleta Lewis, North Pole; Mary Beaver, Russian Mission; Sarah Okbaok, Teller; Emma Ayojiak-Carolos, Togiak; Fern Neimeyer, Wrangell. Women hold 16 percent of the mayor's seats in Alaska.

Heather Flynn, Anchorage assemblywoman, was recently installed as President of the Alaska Municipal League.

Lorraine "Sammy" Crawford, a social studies teacher at Soldotna High School has been named 1988 Alaska Teacher of the year. She also is one of four finalists for National Teacher of the Year.

Mary Pete of Bethel was recently appointed to the State Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Ayana Augustine-Warren of Anchorage was recently honored at the Blacks in Government Conference with a Presidential Award for her advocacy on behalf of children with special needs. Augustine-Warren also serves as the Anchorage Chapter President of Blacks in Government.

Kay Kennedy of Fairbanks has been named Woman of Achievement by the National Federation of Press Women.

The award is the national groups highest honor.

Joan McCoy of Anchorage was elected treasurer of the National Federation of Press Women. She is the first national officer to come from Alaska.

Alaskan Rotary Clubs have opened their doors to women. Women members have been installed throughout the state including Eagle River, Fairbanks, Anchorage and Petersburg. Karen Van Meter of Eagle River was the first woman admitted to a Rotary Club in Alaska.

Patricia Ray, state president of the National Association of Colored Women's Club announced the formation of a new chapter in Juneau. Anita Price was elected president of the Juneau Chapter.

Donna Meyer, Anchorage, received the Outstanding Community School Urban Personnel award from the Alaska Association for Community Education.



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

### Members of Commission:

Paula Ziegler, chair  
Juneau  
Joy Green-Armstrong, vice chair  
Anchorage  
Loretta Bullard  
Nortie  
Kris Chatfield, Anchorage  
Linda L. Freed, Kodiak  
Elizabeth (Pat) Kennedy, Anchorage  
Mary Pete, Bethel  
Betty Ramage, Anchorage  
Wendy Redman, Fairbanks  
Susan Smalley, Kenai  
**Executive Director**  
Christine Callahan

### State of Alaska

Steve Cowper, Governor  
Stephen McAlpine, Lt. Governor

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# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Version SB 53  
 () Publish Date \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier (file name) SB053-OOG-WC-3-25-11  
 Title An Act reestablishing the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women;...  
 Sponsor Senator Davis  
 Requester (S) STA  
 Dept. Affected Office of the Governor  
 Appropriation Commission and Special Offices  
 Allocation Women's Commission  
 OMB Component Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

|                               | Appropriation Required | Information |              |              |              |              |              |         |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------|
|                               |                        | FY 2012     | FY 2012      | FY 2013      | FY 2014      | FY 2015      | FY 2016      | FY 2017 |
| <b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b> |                        |             |              |              |              |              |              |         |
| Personal Services             | 264.9                  |             | 279.0        | 288.2        | 297.7        | 307.3        | 316.3        |         |
| Travel                        | 25.3                   |             | 25.3         | 25.3         | 25.3         | 25.3         | 25.3         |         |
| Services                      | 159.3                  |             | 159.3        | 159.3        | 159.3        | 159.3        | 159.3        |         |
| Commodities                   | 7.2                    |             | 7.2          | 7.2          | 7.2          | 7.2          | 7.2          |         |
| Capital Outlay                | 52.4                   |             | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0          |         |
| Grants                        |                        |             |              |              |              |              |              |         |
| Miscellaneous                 |                        |             |              |              |              |              |              |         |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>        | <b>509.1</b>           | <b>0.0</b>  | <b>470.8</b> | <b>480.0</b> | <b>489.5</b> | <b>499.1</b> | <b>508.1</b> |         |

|                             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|                           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>CHANGE IN REVENUES</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

|                          |              |            |              |              |              |              |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts    |              |            |              |              |              |              |              |
| 1003 GF Match            |              |            |              |              |              |              |              |
| 1004 GF                  | 509.1        |            | 470.8        | 480.0        | 489.5        | 499.1        | 508.1        |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts |              |            |              |              |              |              |              |
| 1037 GF/Mental Health    |              |            |              |              |              |              |              |
| Other (please identify)  |              |            |              |              |              |              |              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>509.1</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>470.8</b> | <b>480.0</b> | <b>489.5</b> | <b>499.1</b> | <b>508.1</b> |

Estimate of any current year (FY2011) cost 0.0

**POSITIONS**

|           |     |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------|-----|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Full-time | 3.0 |  | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Part-time |     |  |   |   |   |   |   |
| Temporary |     |  |   |   |   |   |   |

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Prepared by Linda Perez, Administrative Director  
 Division Division of Administrative Services  
 Approved by Linda Perez, Administrative Director  
Division of Administrative Services

Phone 465-3876  
 Date/Time 3/25/11 2:45 PM  
 Date 3/25/2011

## FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 53

### Analysis

Fiscal Note assumes:

3 Commission staff:

Program Manager Rg. 24

Research Analyst Rg. 18

Admin. Assist. Rg. 15

7 public members with geographic representation: 3 Anchorage/valley, 1 Juneau, 1 Nome, 1 Ketchikan, 1 Fairbanks

4 face-to-face meetings annually. Additional meetings as required via teleconference.

2 Anchorage meetings (one winter, one summer)

transportation:  $\$2,451 \times 2 = \$4,902$

lodging:  $\$1,448 + \$800 = \$2,248$

M&IE:  $\$720 \times 2 = \$1,440$

1 Juneau meeting (during legislative session)

transportation:  $\$4,999$

lodging:  $\$1,680$

M&IE:  $\$1,440$

1 Fairbanks meeting (during summer)

transportation:  $\$4,724$

lodging:  $\$2,400$

M&IE:  $\$1,440$

All meetings assume full commission and 2 staff attendance, and further assumes 2 Executive Branch members travel costs paid by employing agencies.

Contractual includes core services charges, communications, advertising, printing, office space lease, and postage.

Initial equipment costs reflects set-up of office work stations, computers, phones, fax, copier, etc.



AARP Alaska  
3601 C Street  
Suite 1420  
Anchorage, AK 99503

T 1-866-227-7447  
F 907-341-2270  
TTY 1-877-434-7598  
www.aarp.org/ak

March 25, 2011

The Honorable Bill Wielechowski, Chair  
Senate State Affairs Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 101  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: SB 53 (Davis)—Support

Dear Chair Wielechowski:

On behalf of the members of AARP in Alaska, we encourage you and your colleagues on the Senate State Affairs Committee to support SB 53, authored by Senator Bettye Davis and co-sponsored by Senator Johnny Ellis.

SB 53 would reestablish the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women.

Women's issues are different from those of the entire population. AARP has always paid particular attention to women's issues simply because they are often unique and need to be viewed through a different lens.

We understand that the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women would address issues of importance to Alaska women of all ages.

But simply from the standpoint of women over the age of 50, we believe the Commission is worthwhile and should be re-established:

- Women are at a higher risk of poverty as they age. Nearly twice as many women as men will face poverty in their retirement years. Women earn 77 cents on the dollar compared to men. This translates as an average of \$250,000 less over their work lives to invest in retirement.
- Women over age 50 are more than twice as likely as men over 50 to frequently miss activities due to a lack of transportation.
- Older women face particular challenges in getting access to training and educational programs that enable them to increase their job skills. The AARP Foundation has a scholarship program for older women with low incomes. A third of the recipients are grandparents and almost half of the recipients were in dead-end jobs.
- Working women are often the sole or primary economic support for their families, yet they tend to be concentrated in low-paying occupations. More than two-thirds of the part-time workforce is made up of women, with less job security and little or no access to employer-provided benefits.
- The vast majority of family caregivers are women. Many are forced to drop out of the labor force altogether to take on family caregiving responsibilities.

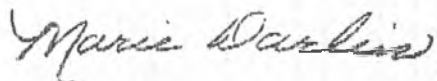
Health care access, displaced homemakers, widowhood, credit issues, economic vulnerability, out-of-pocket health costs, retirement system disparities, Social Security disparities, spousal pension rights...the list goes on and on...all good reasons to have an Alaska Commission on the Status of Women.

AARP recommends an "AYE" vote on SB 53.

Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact me (586-3637) or Patrick Luby, AARP Advocacy Director (907-762-3314).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marie Darlin, Coordinator  
AARP Capital City Task Force  
415 Willoughby Avenue, Apt. 506  
Juneau, AK 99801  
586-3637 (voice)  
463-3580 (fax)

CC: Vice-Chair Joe Paskvan  
Senator Albert Kookesh  
Senator Kevin Meyer  
Senator Cathy Giessel  
Senator Bettye Davis

## Sen. Bettye Davis

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**From:** Connie Ozer [ozerck@gci.net]  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:04 PM  
**To:** Senator\_Bill\_Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us)  
**Cc:** Sen. Bettye Davis  
**Subject:** SB53

I am writing in support of SB 53 which will be the subject of a hearing March 24. This is a great time to reestablish the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women. There are unique problems facing women and children in Alaska in the 21st century and it is right that the Legislature is moving forward with this.

Thank you for your efforts.

Connie Ozer  
2770 Pelican Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99502

## Sen. Bettye Davis

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**From:** Rose Stokes [rstokes@gci.net]  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 5:14 PM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Bettye Davis  
**Cc:** Celeste Hodge  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 53

Dear Senators,

This message is in support of SB53 to reestablish the Alaska Women's Commission because of the needs delineated in this bill. I believe the Commission can offer support to women and children in many ways. In addition, women have many challenges maintaining small businesses in Alaska. We need resources that will focus on the many critical issues that negatively impact women entrepreneurs.

Please let me know if I can offer further assistance.

Sincerely,  
Rose Stokes

**Sen. Bettye Davis**

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**From:** Ramona Duby [doobegone@gmail.com]  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 5:07 PM  
**To:** Senator\_\_Bill\_Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us  
**Cc:** Sen. Bettye Davis  
**Subject:** Support SB53 Re-establishment of the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women

**Re: SB 53**

**Reestablishment of the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women**

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Ramona (Miss Mona) Duby . i live in Anchorage. I am a daughter, sister, auntie and according to some, their "greatest auntie". I am **"NOW"** also proud to be a member of the Koniag, Inc. and Leisnoi, Inc. , corporations formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. I say "NOW" because if you were here in the '60's, you may recall the prejudice faced by Alaska Natives and I had a very hard time being proud of my heritage. It took a long time, especially being a woman whose years to come to grips with my heritage/womanhood.

I am the past president of Business and Professional Women/Anchorage Local Organization, past chartering president and president of Denali (Wasilla) Business and Professional Women, the '92-'93 President of the Alaska Federation of Business and Professional Women, an ATHENA Society Member, currently on the Board of Directors of Anchorage Community Mental Health Services, Inc., the Alaska Mental Health Board and have served on a variety of other boards and committees over the years.

I regret that I cannot testify in person on the important piece of legislation, however would like to offer my written testimony in support of SB53, the Reestablishment of the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women.

Because of the value of the information in the publications, I still have some that were published by the former Commission under the Cowper and Sheffield administration. The Legal Handbook and the Alaska Women's History Booklet are both excellent references that I have referred to on many occasions over the years. For years, we've heard how Alaska leads most other states in domestic violence and sexual assault not to mention substance abuse, and wage discrimination.

Unfortunately, I am one of the women who has faced every single one of the "issues" personally that are addressed in the statistics gathered on the status of women. From sexual assault / abuse when I was a child to wage and employment discrimination, domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse, rape, mental illness, financial exploitation prior to the fair credit act of 1981, etc. Some of these issues I am still battling through on a daily basis. Perhaps with the re-establishment of the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women, providing the valuable and useful information as it did in the past, it will assist policy makers and funding organizations that with just a few hundred million dollars invested in treatment rather than billions of dollars in building prisons, Alaska will be not just the Great Land, but the GREATEST Land.

Please, I strongly urge you to join me in supporting the reestablishment of the commission.

Yours Sincerely,

Ramona (Miss Mona) S. Duby

P.O. Box 93016

2009 Wildwood Lane

Anchorage, AK 99517

907-279-1380 (w)

907-952-1850

## Sen. Bettye Davis

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**From:** carolyn V Brown [cvbrown1937@yahoo.com]  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 6:45 PM  
**To:** Kathy Ruddy  
**Subject:** Senate to Consider Reestablishing Alaska Women's Commission

Kathy:

This is very, very good. I was involved with the original establishment of the Women's Commission in Alaska and was a member of that group with Lillie McGarvey (a powerful Native woman).

When we were in Vermont, I was on the Governor's Commission for Women for 4-5 years and that was extremely productive. We did a lot to advance payment for women's services, domestic violence prevention work, legislative discussion in Montpelier and leadership skills for women in Vermont. It was a good experience for me.

I would expect that, if this costs a dime, it won't go anywhere. But we do have to keep trying.

Thank you for sharing and I will welcome any update as there is movement.

carolyn V Brown MD MPH  
1640 Second Street  
Douglas Alaska 99824 USA

-364-2726  
907-364-2727 fax  
907-321-0784 cellular

[cvbrown1937@yahoo.com](mailto:cvbrown1937@yahoo.com)

--- On Tue, 3/22/11, Kathy Ruddy <[ruddys99801@yahoo.com](mailto:ruddys99801@yahoo.com)> wrote:

From: Kathy Ruddy <[ruddys99801@yahoo.com](mailto:ruddys99801@yahoo.com)>  
Subject: Fw: Senate to Consider Reestablishing Alaska Women's Commission  
To: "carolyn V Brown" <[cvbrown1937@yahoo.com](mailto:cvbrown1937@yahoo.com)>, "Marjorie Menzi" <[marjoriemenzi@msn.com](mailto:marjoriemenzi@msn.com)>, "Marie Olson" <[naayadi3@gci.net](mailto:naayadi3@gci.net)>, "Ed Kunz" <[seitaan@hotmail.com](mailto:seitaan@hotmail.com)>, "Mickelyn Kunz" <[micdale@gci.net](mailto:micdale@gci.net)>, "Doloresa Cadiante" <[dcadiante@gci.net](mailto:dcadiante@gci.net)>, "Barbara Cadiante-Nelson" <[cadiante.nelson@gmail.com](mailto:cadiante.nelson@gmail.com)>, "Jackie Dailey" <[krcjd@gci.net](mailto:krcjd@gci.net)>  
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2011, 6:38 PM

Thank you all who helped with the event honoring Elizabeth Peratrovich-

-  
what a successful working together of the Alaska Native Sisterhood and the League of Women Voters!

Here is some news about the Alaska Women's Commission that I think has come to me because of Sen. Bettye Davis' sponsorship of the Elizabeth Peratrovich Day 2011 legislative citation, so I wanted to pass it along to all of you.

**Sen. Bettye Davis**

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**Subject:** Celeste Hodge  
FW: SB 53  
**Attachments:** SB 53 Commission on Women.rtf

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**From:** Jana Varrati [<mailto:janav@nome.net>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 7:12 PM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Wielechowski  
**Cc:** Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Donny Olson; [nealwfoster@yahoo.com](mailto:nealwfoster@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** SB 53

Please find attached a letter of support for SB 53 from the Arctic Business & Professional Women (Nome)

I am very ill with some kind of persistent pneumonia (7 weeks now!) but will crawl out of my sick bed to testify for this bill in the AM.

The impact of the reestablishment of the Commission will be immense not only for urban areas but especially for those of us in the rural areas. I live it!

Jana

## *Arctic Business & Professional Women*

Post Office Box 814

Nome, Alaska 99762

Bill Wielechowski  
Chair  
House Committee on Health & Social Services

Dear Chairman Wielekowski and members of the HSS Committee,

The Arctic Business & Professional Women (Nome) are in full support of reestablishing the Commission on the Status of Women - SB 53.

The purpose of the Commission was and still is important to the lives of women and children in this state. Unfortunately, since the demise of the Commission, the type of research focusing on the status of women in this state has been sorely lacking. That lack is reflected in general statistical information which does not clearly represent issues as we see and live them.

Our state is a vast one. It covers so many cultures, so many economic bases, and a wide range of ages and needs. The State of Alaska provides general services to all members of our societies but does *not* focus on the special needs of its women citizens.

I will bring up the unspoken truth: Without Women and Children, we would have *no* Society. No families. No enforcement of rules/laws except Thou Shall Not Kill!

Those of us who live in rural Alaska, the Frontier, as it were, understand and constantly battle against domestic violence, sexual assault, incest, other forms of women and child abuse. We fight against racial discrimination, hiring prejudices, and brushing under the rug violations of law, regulation, and policy.

To pursue a grievance means a woman must be able and willing to file with myriad state agencies for relief. It's confusing and oh so frustrating!

Before its demise, the ACSW provided a central clearing house for those women. Without it, women are left to try to make sense of federal, state, local laws and ordinances to even file a complaint, let alone receive relief.

The Arctic Business & Professional Women has taken on this task as our First Issue - untangling bureaucratic red tape for the women in our Region. We are a clearing house for information, relying on our contacts, our backgrounds, on the Blue Book, advising on how things are supposed to work

I will respectfully remind you that there is NO Community without women and children! The sustainability of any community relies and is based on the health and well-being of its women and children. Without us, it's just a camp, not a community.

As economies suffer, so does the status of women in this state! If you truly believe that women are an integral part of the future and of the economic and social bases of the State of Alaska, you will reinstate the Commission on the Status of Women.

Sincerely,  
Jana Varrati  
President,  
Arctic Business & Professional Women  
(907) 443-3961

## Sen. Bettye Davis

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**From:** D. Robbins [drobbins.r@gmail.com]  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 8:14 PM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Sen. Albert Kookesh; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel  
**Cc:** Sen. Bettye Davis  
**Subject:** SB 53: Reestablish the Alaska Commission on Women  
**Attachments:** Support for SB 53 Reestablish the Alaska Commission on Women.doc

Senate State Affairs  
Chair: Senator Wielechowski  
Vice-Chair: Senator Paskvan  
Members:  
Senator Kookesh  
Senator Meyer  
Senator Giessel

Please accept my attached letter of testimony in support of SB 53: Reestablish the Alaska Commission on Women. This is likely the best legislation that you will hopefully pass for families in years because of the value it casts in the lives of many Alaskans; women and children in particular.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

 Doris Robbins

1281 Overhill Dr.  
Fairbanks AK 99709-6753  
(907) 374-0597  
[drobbins@gci.net](mailto:drobbins@gci.net)

--  
Doris Robbins

(907) 374-0597  
Fairbanks AK 99709-6753  
[drobbins.r@gmail.com](mailto:drobbins.r@gmail.com)

*Natural Soaps Soothing to the Skin*  
[www.alaskasoaps.com](http://www.alaskasoaps.com)

## Doris Robbins

1281 Overhill Dr., Fairbanks, AK 99709-6753  
(907) 374-0597  
drobbins@gci.net

March 23, 2011

Senate State Affairs  
Chair: Senator Wielechowski  
Vice-Chair: Senator Paskvan  
Member: Senator Kookesh  
Member: Senator Meyer  
Member: Senator Giessel

Senators,

### I Support SB 53: Reestablish the Alaska Commission on Women

I support Senate Bill 53 to Reestablish the Alaska Commission on Women. There should be no question about this as it should have never gone away!

There was the survey that was recently done that shows a majority of Alaska women have been abused or are being abused at some time.

We know that women earn about 67 cents on the dollar for the same work that men do. I think it may have actually gotten worse in recent years and had been at 70 cents one time.

I'm hearing again the excuse that men are the breadwinners so they are being hired over women more than ever after the recession. Many women are the breadwinners; and regardless of that they deserve equal pay for equal work. If a man is single, do you expect him to take a lesser salary?

I have seen recently that there are still practices of assuming the woman, in an issue such as divorce or financial disagreements, is the one that is the problem. She is too often assumed to be the one at fault. It isn't just the ditzzy blond prejudice but that women are fickle or some other excuse.

In fact, my daughter who is the owner of her house that she signed the mortgage on and continues to pay off, being the only one who ever paid a dime on it and holds all the paperwork, had the experience when her husband moved out of being treated as if she had no say in that house.

When she went to have the power, phone, TV, put in her name alone she had to argue the point and actually take her ownership paper work to the aforesaid companies before she could eventually have the changes made so she would not be without necessary services. (He was no longer there and had demonstrated he could care less, other than continuing to find ways to charge things to her.)

You may think I am prejudiced, but if you talk to other women you will see that this is typical. We certainly do need a Commission to help see that women get fair treatment regardless of their status.

Often women fear abandonment and tolerate too much mistreatment. Others attempt to better things and find the mountain they have to climb is just too steep. Years later perhaps the police investigate abuse that had gone on and wondered why a woman would tolerate such.

The climate, through conditions that sometimes continue to exist today, gives sanction to bad treatment. You still hear things like: "That's a woman for you!" "Must have been a woman driver!" "She just blew the whole paycheck!"

When do you hear: "She is the one who does the books and manages the check book!" "I can't believe how she holds down her full time job and goes home to fix a dinner from scratch!" "The best military pilots are women!" (They are equal or above the performance of men if you check.)

No more and no less, just treat women fair; the Commission will help make that happen.

Sincerely,

Doris Robbins

SB53 RECEIVED

MAR 23 2011

**Sen. Bettye Davis**

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**From:** hattietaylor@ups.com  
**To:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 11:32 AM  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT -- SB53 (Reestablish the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women)

Senator Wielechowski,

Please acknowledge this communication to reflect my support for SB53 (Reestablish the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women).

Kind Regards,

**Hattie Taylor**

UPS Corporate  
*Global Sales Operations*  
[hattietaylor@ups.com](mailto:hattietaylor@ups.com)

## Celeste Hodge

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**From:** Sen. Bettye Davis  
**To:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 2:54 PM  
**Subject:** Celeste Hodge  
FW: I SUPPORT -- SB53 (Reestablish the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women)

---

**From:** [hattietaylor@ups.com](mailto:hattietaylor@ups.com) [<mailto:hattietaylor@ups.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 11:32 AM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Wielechowski  
**Cc:** Sen. Bettye Davis  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT -- SB53 (Reestablish the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women)

Senator Wielechowski,

Please acknowledge this communication to reflect my support for SB53 (Reestablish the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women).

Kind Regards,

**Hattie Taylor**

UPS Corporate

*Global Sales Operations*

[hattietaylor@ups.com](mailto:hattietaylor@ups.com)

SB53

**Sen. Bettye Davis**

---

**From:** Connie Ozer [ozerc@oci.net]  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:04 PM  
**To:** Senator\_Bill\_Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us)  
**Cc:** Sen. Bettye Davis  
**Subject:** SB53

I am writing in support of SB 53 which will be the subject of a hearing March 24. This is a great time to reestablish the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women. There are unique problems facing women and children in Alaska in the 21st century and it is right that the Legislature is moving forward with this.

Thank you for your efforts.

Connie Ozer  
2770 Pelican Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99502

SB53

Sen. Bettye Davis

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**From:** Ann [apstrick@yahoo.com]  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 8:04 AM  
**To:** Sen. Bill Wielechowski  
**Cc:** Sen. Bettye Davis  
**Subject:** I support SB 53

3-23-2011

I AM EMAILING THIS LETTER IN MY SUPPORT OF SB53 REESTABLISHMENT OF THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN.

ANN STRICKLAND  
P O BOX 34997  
JUNEAU, AK 99803

[apstrick@yahoo.com](mailto:apstrick@yahoo.com)

MAR 22 2011

**Celeste Hodge**

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**From:** Ramona Duby [doobegone@gmail.com]  
**To:** Monday, March 21, 2011 8:13 PM  
**o:** Jana Varrati  
**Cc:** Celeste Hodge  
**Subject:** Re: SB53  
**Attachments:** SB0053A.PDF

Hi Jana:

You are just so awesome!!!! Attached is the bill.

It will be heard on Thursday the 24th at 9:30

Please send letters to committee chair and copy Bettye. You can call Celeste Hodge in Senator Davis office for information if you are unable to access the bill from basis.

Hugs to you and thanks for all you do!

Ramona (Miss Mona) Duby  
279-1380

On Mon, Mar 21, 2011 at 6:54 PM, Jana Varrati <[janav@nome.net](mailto:janav@nome.net)> wrote:

mona,  
es, it's me, Jana. I'm trying to help on this bill but can't get the info about it reestablishing the AWC. I have our BPW members here ready to write letters, etc to support but I can't give them the basic info on which to base those letters. I lobbied the creation of the AWC, worked with them on so many issues, and was a member of first Anch. Women's Commission.

Help me, Sister!

Jana

Re: SB 53

## Reestablishment of the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Sue C. Johnson and I live in Anchorage. I am a mother, daughter, sister, wife, and very recently a grandmother, I am the Past President of the Alaska Women's Political Caucus, a member of the Athena Society (a program of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce dedicated to encouraging the potential of women as valued members and leaders of the business community), a member of the League of Women Voters and the Business and Professional Women of Alaska.

I regret that I cannot testify in person on the important piece of legislation, but for the record, I have the following comments supporting the Reestablishment of the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women.

In my view, the Alaska Commission is a vehicle for addressing some of the very critical key issues facing Alaska as a society. That the Commission focuses on women's issues does not mean it is just some vehicle to "study women" - my husband says he has been doing that unsuccessfully his whole life. Rather, the focus on women encourages evaluation of important issues facing Alaska as a community.

During recent months and during election time, we heard over and over again about how we lead most other states in domestic violence and how most Alaskan women have experienced it firsthand. We have also heard about the astronomical number of rapes and sexual assaults that occur in our state. Rather than being leaders about sexual assault and rape of women, let's be leaders in how we treat the women of Alaska. I believe this commission would put us on track to do that.

We also know that many Alaskan women are the single wage earner for families and that the numbers of women in the workforce, as well as their chosen career paths have dramatically changed over the past several years. However, they still fall far behind men when it comes to wages and benefits, especially as they related to health care and retirement. One of the biggest complaints I hear regularly from young mothers is the difficulty in locating reliable, affordable and safe child care for their children. I've been hearing that same complaint for the thirty five plus years I have lived in Alaska and I have personally had the same experience. We can do better than that.

These are only small samplings of concerns facing Alaskan women and families. It is time to stop ignoring them. Alaskan women have made numerous contributions and sacrifices for the State of Alaska and they deserve to know the government is looking out for their best interests.

I urge you to support the reestablishment of the commission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue C Johnson  
2131 Belmont Drive  
Anchorage AK 99517  
7301.5005