

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1987-1988 8672
5543 SSTA HB 4 (file 1)

- 1982 - Public service announcements produced by the Commission air on television regarding non-traditional employment opportunities, fetal alcohol syndrome and non-sexist language.
- 1983 - Commission reviews and critiques pilot edition of the Alaska History textbook.
- 1983 - Profiles of 60 Alaskan women who have contributed to the state's economic, social and political development are published by the Commission in Profiles in Change - Names, Notes and Quotes for Alaskan Women.
- 1984 - Commission sponsors "Labor Union Workshop" in Anchorage and publishes results of the conference.
- 1984 - A statewide Directory of Women's Organizations is released by the Commission.
- 1984 - Alaska Women: A Databook a profile of Alaska Women based upon the 1980 census is published by the Commission.
- 1984 - A revised edition of Women's Legal Rights in Alaska is published by the Commission. Over 5,000 copies distributed since its second release.
- 1984 - Commission co-sponsors and helps publish Child Care Directories for Anchorage, Juneau/Ketchikan and Fairbanks.
- 1984 - Local Women's Councils are established in Anchorage and Sitka with the assistance of the Alaska Women's Commission.
- 1984 - Commission supports ten bills in the legislature, five signed into law.
- 1984 - Workshop on "American Women: Three Decades of Change" is co-sponsored by the Commission with the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the state Dept. of Labor.
- 1984 - Commission conducts study on pension reform within the public employees retirement system and submits recommendations for legislative changes. Changes are adopted in 1985.
- 1984 - Native Women's Task Force convened by Commission to address employment issues within state government.
- 1984 - Commission testifies before legislative committee on improving women's economic conditions through expansion of business loans targeted at women owned businesses.

- 1984 - "Barriers to Employment Conference" is co-sponsored by the Alaska Women's Commission.
- 1984 - Written Biographies of 20 women in Alaska history are distributed by the Commission to statewide media for use during Women's History Month.
- 1984-86 Commission serves on Sex Equity Advisory Committee of Anchorage School District.
- 1985 - Commission completes Review of the Alaska Statutes for Sex Discrimination which identifies over 80 discriminatory laws.
- 1985 - As a result of the Alaska Women's Commission's efforts, former spouses and widows of State employees are able to purchase group health insurance at a comparable price at no expense to the State.
- 1985 - Commission works with the Department of Administration to increase recruitment and hiring of Native women.
- 1985 - Commission publishes A Sense of History, the first annotated bibliography of books, articles, audio-visual aids and photo displays about Alaska Women. Distributes to schools, libraries and all social studies teachers in the state.
- 1985 - Commission establishes third local women's council in Juneau.
- 1985 - Commission holds statewide women's conference in Anchorage on the economic status of women "At the Edge of Opportunity" brought together more than 700 people from more than 30 communities.
- 1985 - A workshop sponsored by the Commission, on the United Nations Conference for Women is held in Anchorage.
- 1985 - A seminar on equal educational opportunities for girls is sponsored by the Commission in Wasilla.
- 1985 - Alaska Women's Commission organizes Legislative Alliance for Women Statewide (LAWS), a coalition of 15 statewide women's organizations whose purpose is to analyze and take positions on legislation, monitor budget and policy decisions which have direct impact on women's lives.
- 1985-86 - Seven bills are introduced by the Governor on behalf of the Commission which have a significant economic impact on women. Three of the bills pass.
- 1986 - Commission works with state government to initiate an expanded register to increase the hiring of women in ranges 18 and above.

- 1986 - Court system and the Commission work together to revise forms for marital dissolutions so that lay people can more easily understand their rights and obligations.
- 1986 - Commission evaluates implementation of Alaska's sex equity in education law, Chapter 18, in Alaska's school districts and publishes results in Commitment or Complacency: An Assessment of Sex Equity in Alaskan's Educational Institutions.
- 1986 - Four hundred rural women in attendance at four regional Commission sponsored conferences in Bethel, Huslia, Sitka, Wasilla. A report is published summarizing the events and recommendations.
- 1986 - Two leadership seminars are conducted by the Commission. Held in Juneau, the seminar "Women in Prison" provides policy makers with an overview of issues surrounding the Alaskan female prison population. In Fairbanks, "Making a Difference: A Primer for Women in Public Life" provides training sessions for women considering running for public office. A handbook for political involvement is issued following seminar and is mailed to about 1700 women.
- 1986 - Commission produces 30 public service announcements for television and radio profiling Alaskan women and their accomplishments. Profiles play throughout the state on commercial and public radio and television during March, Women's History Month.
- 1986 - Women's history timeline poster is produced by the Commission and sent to all schools, libraries and to every social studies teacher in the state.
- 1986 - Commission serves on state Commission on Child Support Enforcement, providing governor with findings and recommendations to make child support more uniform and equitable.
- 1987 - Commission co-sponsors Female Minority Leadership Conference with Anchorage School District, and serves as program chair.
- 1987 - HB4 and SB89, companion bills to extend the Alaska Women's Commission to 1991 are introduced. HB4 is sponsored by Representatives Davis, Kopponen, Ulmer, Ellis and Donley. SB89 is sponsored by the governor.



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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

Alaska Womens Commission

FY87 Legislative Platform

1. Continuation of the Alaska Women's Commission:

The Alaska Women's Commission expires on June 30, 1987 under the Sunset law for boards and commissions. The proposed legislation extends the commission for the maximum period of time, four years.

2. Parental Leave (amended version of HB 238)

Changes maternity leave to parental leave and extends that leave for the purposes of adoption. Changes the leave of absence for these purposes from 9 to 16 weeks. The law does not cover employees who are covered by collective bargaining. However, intent language was included indicating that it is the intent that the same policy be granted in all collective bargaining agreements made between the state and its employees.

3. Divorce and Dissolution Reform (amended version HB 496)

The proposed legislation requires both parties to attend the dissolution hearing under certain conditions in which an imbalance of power might be exercised. The court will also review dissolution agreements with heightened scrutiny when any of the following conditions exist:

- a) one party is represented by counsel and the other is not;
- b) a domestic violence complaint has been filed during the marriage by a member of the family;
- c) there are minor children of the marriage.

The bill changes the standard for examination of dissolution agreements from "not grossly unfair" to "fair". It also clarifies that retirement benefits and "other career assets" are considered part of the marital property to be distributed.

The legislation also indicates the type of court orders that can be requested during the pendency of divorce.



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SUNSET REVIEW

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

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

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

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

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

- Completed a review of the Alaska Statutes for sex discrimination. This was the first and only such review ever conducted and it identified more than 30 discriminatory laws.

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



DIVORCE AND DISSOLUTION REFORM BILL

No-fault divorce was hailed as a progressive social reform designed to lessen the emotional trauma of divorce for all family members. Recent research suggests that many women and children suffer severe "downward mobility" as an unintended result of these reforms. Economic settlements are often unfair, and many women and children appear to be losing ground financially because of them.

Hardest hit have been middle and upper-middle class women, groups formerly protected by alimony and child support. Nationally, 85% of divorced women are awarded no alimony at all and less than one-half of all divorced mothers receive the full amount of child support due. Current Alaska law does not authorize spousal support while a divorce is pending. In addition, the court often awards insufficient attorney's fees to a spouse already in financial need.

The Divorce and Dissolution Reform Bill addresses these problems by enabling the court to provide spousal support while a divorce is pending, and more adequate attorney's fees and court costs to financially needy spouses. These provisions will help prevent one marital partner from exercising unequal bargaining power over a financially needy spouse.

This bill will also clarify that "career assets" are part of marital property under dissolution law. This will enable judges who are dividing family income to consider the parties' future earning capability and retirement benefits as part of the property to be divided fairly.

More recent innovations in divorce reform such as Alaska's dissolution procedure, have created the potential for even greater inequities to occur in "no-fault" divorces. Alaska's dissolution law allows the parties to come to any agreement as long as it is "not grossly unfair." Yet, limited information is available to the parties on their rights and obligations, and they are not required to seek legal counsel. Conse-

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PARENTAL LEAVE

The demographic forces shaping the Alaskan workforce require new solutions for the care of our children. Since 1950, Alaskan women have increased their labor force participation by over 500 percent. Almost one-half of all mothers with children under the age of one are working outside the home. In state employment, about one-half of the workforce is composed of women. Eighty percent are of childbearing age and it is estimated that 93 percent will become pregnant during their work career. The majority of these women need to work. The two income family is no longer an anomaly but a necessity of life. Yet the dilemma exists. How do you balance the competing needs of job security and parenting?

National experts have stated that substantial harm to a baby occurs developmentally, emotionally, physically, and psychologically when an infant is separated from the parents during the first four months of life. But, current state policy provides only slightly more than two months of job protected leave, and only to mothers.

This is a national problem since, unlike most other industrialized nations, the United States does not have a policy on parental leave. Extensive parental benefits are provided in over 80 nations either by the employer or by national insurance plans. In France, women are entitled to 90% of their earnings for a sixteen week period and are guaranteed the same or a comparable job on their return. In Sweden, "parent insurance" allows either parent to leave work for up to nine months after the birth of a child, without loss of pay. In West Germany, women receive about seven months paid leave.

The absence of a national parental leave policy has left the determination of parental leave up to individual employers. Some employers have recognized the important relationship of family to work. However, very often employers do not routinely assure that employees who must be out of work for any period of time can get their jobs back, regardless of whether they were out of work because they were having a child.

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CORRECTION

**THIS DOCUMENT
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TO ASSURE LEGIBILITY**



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Spearheaded Alaska's state government initiative to increase hiring of women into ranges 13 and above. The quantifiable impact will be gauged as these initiatives become operational and will be measured by the Division of EEO.

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

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

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



DIVORCE AND DISSOLUTION REFORM BILL

No-fault divorce was hailed as a progressive social reform designed to lessen the emotional trauma of divorce for all family members. Recent research suggests that many women and children suffer severe "downward mobility" as an unintended result of these reforms. Economic settlements are often unfair, and many women and children appear to be losing ground financially because of them.

Hardest hit have been middle and upper-middle class women, groups formerly protected by alimony and child support. Nationally, 85% of divorced women are awarded no alimony at all and less than one-half of all divorced mothers receive the full amount of child support due. Current Alaska law does not authorize spousal support while a divorce is pending. In addition, the court often awards insufficient attorney's fees to a spouse already in financial need.

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This bill will also clarify that "career assets" are part of marital property under dissolution law. This will enable judges who are dividing family income to consider the parties' future earning capability and retirement benefits as part of the property to be divided fairly.

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quently, the economic settlements are not always fair and equitable, nor are the long-term consequences of their spousal agreements always understood.

The Divorce and Dissolution Reform Bill will require greater judicial scrutiny of dissolution agreements and will require that settlements be "fair and equitable" where the following circumstances exist:

1. one party is represented by counsel and the other is not;
2. domestic violence has occurred in the marriage; or
3. there are minor children in the marriage.

Close review of these dissolution agreements will protect the best interests of the children and help prevent unfair bargaining power from being exercised by either of the parties.

The unequal bargaining power that exists in many marriages has left many women especially vulnerable during divorce. According to Lenore Weitzman's recent book The Divorce Revolution: the Unexpected Social and Economic Consequences for Women and Children in America, women experience a 73% drop in their standard of living during the first year after the divorce, while their former husbands enjoy a 42% rise in theirs.

The purpose of this legislation is to correct many of the economic inequities that occur under the current dissolution laws, to clarify the rights of spouses during a divorce action, and to help prevent the impoverishment of women and children in Alaska.



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The absence of a national parental leave policy has left the determination of parental leave up to individual employers. Some employers have recognized the important relationship of family to work. However, very often employers do not routinely assure that employees who must be out of work for any period of time can get their jobs back, regardless of whether they were out of work because they were having a child.

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The Parental Leave Bill is a positive response to the social and economic reality that the majority of parents - fathers and mothers - work outside the home. The bill will change maternity to parental leave and extend that leave for purposes of adoption. It would also extend protection of the worker's job from 9 to 16 weeks for this purpose. The Alaska Women's Commission believes that this bill will strengthen families, insure greater stability in the workforce and provide a benefit to Alaska's children without costing the state additional money. While the bill only affects state workers, it is considered "model legislation" that will be promoted among all other Alaskan employers.

No. 2

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

69

REQUEST: _____

Bill Version: HR 4
Publish Date: HOUSE 2/20/87

Revision Date: 2/17/87

Agency Affected: Governor's Office
BRU: Alaska Women's Commission

Title: Extending Alaska Women's Commission

Sponsor: Davis

Component: _____

Requestor: House Finance Committee

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

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

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

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

POSITIONS:

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

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Funding for the Women's Commission will be provided in the FY 88 budget if the legislature determines funding is necessary through the normal budget process.

Prepared by: Al Adams, Chair Phone: 465-3706
Division: House Finance Committee Date: 2/17/87

Approved by Commissioner: _____ Date: _____
Agency: _____

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)
- Senate Secretary



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Mike Davis

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

Interim Office:
P.O. Box 81435
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION

1. How can you support funding for the Women's Commission when other important programs are being cut ie day care, women's shelters, preventive services?

- I COMMEND MEMBERS OF THIS BODY FOR POINTING OUT THE DEFICIT IN HUMAN SERVICES THAT WILL OCCUR IF THE BUDGET IS PASSED IN ITS CURRENT STATE.

- THE BUDGET PROCESS IS NOT COMPLETED. THE LEVEL OF FUNDING FOR THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION AS WELL AS THE LEVEL OF FUNDING OF THOSE ESSENTIAL HUMAN SERVICES HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE. THOSE ISSUES ARE PRESENTLY BEING SCRUTINIZED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE GOVERNOR.

- THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION ALSO HELPS TO INCREASE VISIBILITY AND KEEP THE PUBLIC AND THE LEGISLATURE AWARE OF THE NEEDS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS THOSE NEEDS.

- THERE IS NO FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED TO THIS BILL, FUNDING FOR THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE FY 88 BUDGET, IF THE LEGISLATURE DETERMINES FUNDING IS NECESSARY THROUGH THE NORMAL BUDGET PROCESS.

2. The Women's commission does not represent a broad spectrum of interests?

- THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION IS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, HIS APPOINTMENT IS BASED ON CONCERN FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES. THERE ARE 9 MEMBERS, 1 APPOINTED BY THE A.G.. THE COMMISSION IS REPRESENTED BY 1 BLACK WOMAN, 2 NATIVE WOMEN. GEOGRAPHICALLY THE COMMISSION IS DIVIDED INTO 1 KETCHIKAN, 1 SITKA, 1 FAIRBANKS AND 6 MEMBERS FROM ANCHORAGE.

3. Why shouldn't we combine this commission with the Human Rights Commission or the EEO commission?

- THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ORIGINALLY RECOMMENDED THAT A WOMENS COMMISSION BE CREATED BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME OR THE MONEY TO DEAL WITH WOMEN'S ISSUES SUFFICIENTLY. THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION DEALS WITH INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS AND VIOLATIONS. EEO DEALS WITH ONLY JOB DESCRIPTION AND WORKPLACE VIOLATIONS. THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION WORKS AT A BROADER LEVEL

TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN ALASKA THROUGH RESEARCH AND
EDUCATION

4. What are the 3 bills that the commission worked on and were
passed last year?

- HB 237 PENSION REFORM
- HB 499 INHERITANCE AND PROBATE
- HB 493 REVISORS BILL

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

No. 2

69

REQUEST: _____

Bill Version: HB 4
Publish Date: HOUSE 2/20/87

Revision Date: 2/17/87

Agency Affected: Governor's Office
BRU: Alaska Women's Commission

Title: Extending Alaska Women's Commission

Sponsor: Davis

Components: _____

Requestor: House Finance Committee

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

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

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

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

POSITIONS:

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

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Funding for the Women's Commission will be provided in the FY 88 budget if the legislature determines funding is necessary through the normal budget process.

APA

Prepared by: Al Adams, Chair
Division: House Finance Committee

Phone: 465-3706
Date: 2/17/87

Approved by Commissioner: _____
Agency: _____

Date: _____

Distribution (by preparer):

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Alaska State Legislature

Senate

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State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

May 1, 1987

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The Honorable Mitch Abood
Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Senate
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The undersigned respectfully request that House Bill 4, the measure passed by the House and endorsed by the Governor and others, to extend the Women's Commission, be considered again at the next meeting of the State Affairs Committee, and reported out of the Committee.

We are deeply concerned that any additional delays could jeopardize the Senate's opportunity to consider the measure on the Senate floor.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Joe P. Josephson
Joe P. Josephson

Willie Hensley
Willie Hensley

Rick Gehring
Rick Gehring

RECEIVED
MAY 01 1987



SENATOR FRED F. ZHAROFF
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 405, KODIAK, ALASKA 99615 (907) 486-5259

DURING SESSION:

P.O. BOX V, JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811 • (907) 485-3473 • 485-3474

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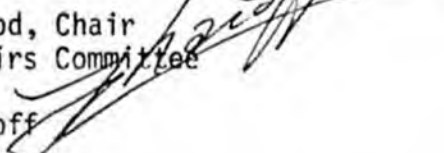
ALASKA PENINSULA • ALEUTIAN CHAIN • BRISTOL BAY • KODIAK ISLAND • LAKE CLARK/LAKE ILIAMNA • PRIBILOF ISLANDS • SHUMAGIN ISLANDS

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- MEMORANDUM -

March 11, 1987

TO: Senator Mitch Abood, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee

FROM: Senator Fred Zharoff 

RE: HB 4: An act extending the Women's Commission

HB 4, extending the Women's Commission, is now in your committee and has three additional committees of referral.

I would request that you review the potential impact of this bill as well as the Alaska Women's Commission and the contribution they offer to the status of women in Alaska.

And, if possible, a scheduling of this bill would display your kindness, generosity, understanding and big heart, not only to your colleagues but to the many women of Alaska who have a desire to see this legislation brought up for a hearing.

Thank you for taking the time to read this most humble request.



Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR JIM DUNCAN

P. O. Box V JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

(907) 465-4766

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
RESOURCES
BUDGET AND AUDIT

March 5, 1987

TO: Senator Mitch Abood, Chairman
Senate State Affairs

FROM: Senator ~~Jim~~ Duncan

SUBJECT: House Bill 4, an act relating to extending the
termination date for the Alaska Women's
Commission.

Please calendar HB 4 for a hearing in your Committee as soon as possible.

I feel that the Alaska Women's Commission has done a great deal to improve the status of women. But they still have much to accomplish, specifically this year SB 124, "An act relating to employment rights based on pregnancy, childbirth, and adoption," and some legal issues concerning divorce. I strongly believe the extension of the Alaska Women's Commission should go through the Committee process and come before the entire Senate for a vote.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

RECEIVED
MAR 05 1987

Senator John B. (Jack) Coghill
Alaska State Legislature

Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-4797

Box 55028
North Pole, Alaska 99705
(907) 488-0862



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Senator Mitch Abood
FROM: Senator John B. (Jack) Coghill
DATE: April 22, 1987
RE: Alaska Women's Commission

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter sent to me by the Alaska Women's Commission.

At your earliest convenience, please consider hearing HB 4, the bill extending the Alaska Women's Commission.

Thank you in advance.

cc: Kris Chatfield

RECEIVED
APR 23 1987

STEVE COWPER
GOVERNOR



PHONE
(907) 561-4227

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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

April 7, 1987

APR 13 1987

Senator Jack Coghill
P.O. Box V
Fairbanks, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Coghill:

On behalf of the entire Alaska Women's Commission I want to take this opportunity to thank you for meeting with our members on March 24 and 25 to discuss the Commission's sunset bill (HB4), our FY88 budget, as well as the other legislative concerns which we considered. We appreciate both your time and your thoughts.

At this writing, HB4 has been in Senate State Affairs for more than one month and has not had a hearing. Anything you can do to urge Senator Abood to move the bill will be of great assistance.

The Commission and the thousands of women it represents appreciate the support you have shown in the past and your current efforts to keep the Commission's work alive.

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

Sincerely,

Kris Chatfield

Kris Chatfield
Chair

DENISE S. HANSEN
2863 Redwood Place, Anchorage, Alaska 99508

MS

RECEIVED
APR 21 1987

April 14, 1987

Senator Mitch Abood
Alaska State Legislature
PO Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator,

Hello; I just wanted to give you my opinion of the Women's Commission: Let's cut it out! Please vote against keeping this in the budget.

This organization isn't for things that will better the lives of women at all. I don't believe the majority of women in Alaska or the U.S.A. agree with the things they stand for. Without going into detail now - I believe these women do more harm than good. Let's not keep funding this organization.

Please answer my letter and let me know where you stand on this important issue. I'd appreciate any new information you could send me, too. I really am very interested and concerned about what happens.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Denise S. Hansen

Denise S. Hansen

Testimony re HB 4 April 23, 1987

Sylvia Funk

p 2 of 2

As an individual who helped sponsor the Minority Leadership Conference in the Anchorage School District which originated in the Commission and School District, I am supportive of efforts which target potential direct aid populations in an effort to create awareness of job opportunities and present positive role models to emulate. This aspect of the Commission's work certainly deserves continuation for the benefit of our whole society.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my view and urge ^{your} rapid movement of HB 4 through the Senate.



4620 Southpark Bluff Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska 99516
April 2, 1987

Alaska Women's Commission
3601 C Street, Suite 742
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Women's Commission:

Looking over your February/March 1987 Status Report, I was impressed once again with the many ways in which the Women's Commission has touched the lives of women throughout Alaska. Many of the rights we have as mothers, homemakers, job holders, and citizens are ours because of the work of the Women's Commission.

Personally, I owe a debt of gratitude to the Women's Commission for encouraging me to participate as a member of the Steering Committee of the 1985 Statewide Women's Conference, "At the Edge of Opportunity." As an urban Alaskan, the conference gave me a unique opportunity to meet, learn from, and share with women across the state. I believe I came away from that experience a more aware, sensitive, and caring human being - qualities I now try to bring to my roles as a professional and as a civic and community leader.

The work of the Women's Commission benefits not only the women of Alaska but their families, employers, and the community at large by assuring that women have a fair and equitable opportunity to realize their full potential. While the Women's Commission has made great strides to promote women's legal rights, protect us from discrimination and abuse, and help us cope with our roles in our changing society, much work remains. Those who think that the Women's Commission has fulfilled its purpose or doesn't speak for them are naive or arrogant or both.

The Women's Commission speaks for all of us. We need it today, tomorrow, and into the future - until inequity, abuse, and discrimination have been eliminated from our society.

Sincerely,

Gay I. Leslie
Gay I. Leslie
President

4-15-87

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS TESTIMONY

CHAIRMAN ABOOD, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. MY NAME IS KAREN RICH AND I SERVE AS THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE JUNEAU WOMEN'S COUNCIL. THE MAJORITY OF OUR MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTS THE CONTINUATION OF FUNDING FOR OPERATION OF THE ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION.

WE BELIEVE THAT, IN TIMES OF DIMINISHING DOLLARS, IT IS PARTICULARLY CRITICAL TO PROVIDE AN ADVOCACY GROUP FOR THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF ALASKA. STAFF RESEARCH CONDUCTED AT THE DIRECTION OF THE ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION HAS FOCUSED ATTENTION ON THE NEEDS OF ALASKA CITIZENS AND TARGETED MECHANISMS FOR DEALING WITH THOSE NEEDS. THE GROUPS SERVED BY THE COMMISSION ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIMITED ACCESS TO DECISION-MAKERS AND WHO OFTEN FIND THEMSELVES OVERLOOKED BECAUSE THEY ARE UNACCUSTOMED TO THE PROCESS OF ALLOCATING DOLLARS TO STATE PROGRAMS.

GROUPS SUCH AS THE EEO OFFICE AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HAVE DIFFERENT ORIENTATIONS AND CLIENTS THAN THOSE SERVED BY THE ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE SEPARATING OUT THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE THREE GROUPS WITH THE RESULT OF BETTER SERVICE TO THE PUBLICS THEY SERVE.

THE JUNEAU WOMEN'S COUNCIL LOOKS TO THE ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION FOR GUIDANCE ON CRITICAL ISSUES AND RESEARCH

SUPPORT AND INFORMATION. WE FIND THE COMMISSION RESPONSIVE AND HELPFUL WHEN WE MAKE INQUIRIES ON SPECIFIC ITEMS.

WE ASK THAT YOU MOVE THIS BILL OUT OF COMMITTEE WITH A DO PASS RECOMMENDATION. THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THE HOPES OF THE JUNEAU WOMEN'S COUNCIL.

2505 Aspen Drive
Anchorage, Ak. 99517

April 18 RECEIVED
APR 22 1987

Senator Mitch Akood
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Akood,

Your help in keeping the Alaska Women's Commission a viable and continuing organization is needed.

Too often legislation which affects women and children is left to happenstance. We need an organization that can keep women informed and coordinating the needs that are stated throughout the entire

state.

When we have an organization that is so effective, we the people need it, and you, the legislature should keep it.

I am a Spencard resident, a retired educator, a mother of six and grandparent.

I worked with the Alaska Women's Commission representing the American Association of University Women and know the good work that has been done.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Hermit K. Booth

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ABOOD

NAME: BOB WATERS

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 10300 HILLSIDE DRIVE

CITY: ANCHORAGE

ZIP: 99516

PHONE: 346-3148

BILL NO: HB 4

SUBJECT: EXTENDING ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION

MESSAGE: PLEASE URGE SENATORS ABOOD AND FAIKS TO MOVE HB 4 OUT OF COMMITTEE.

THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION IS NEEDED TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF ALASKANS.

FOMID: 03115304

DATE: 04/21/87

TIME: 11:53:04

LOCATION: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

ADAMS	BARNES	BENNETT
BOUCHER	BOYER	BINKLEY
BROWN	CATO	COGHILL
COLLINS	COTTEN	DUNCAN
DAVIDSON	DAVIS	ELIASON
DONLEY	ELLIS	FAHRENKAMP
FRANK	FURNACE	FAIKS
GOLL	GRUENBERG	FISCHER
GRUSSENDORF	HANLEY	HALFORD
HERRMANN	HOFFMAN	HENSLEY
HUDSON	KOPCHEN	JONES
LARSON	MARTIN	JOSEPHSON
MENARD	MILLER	KELLY
NAVARRE	PEARCE	KERTTULA
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	RODEY
POURCHOT	RIEGER	STURGULEWSKI
SHULTZ	SPRINGER	SZYMAWSKI
SUID	SHACKHAMMER	UEHLING
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF
WALLIS	ZAWACKI	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ABOOD

NAME: CINDY HARTMANN

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 3250 DENALI #7A

CITY: KETCHIKAN ALASKA

ZIP: 99901

PHONE: 225-2148

BILL NO: AHFC

SUBJECT: AHFC

MESSAGE: I AM REQUESTING YOUR SUPPORT OF AHFC'S PROPOSED SIMPLIFIED REFINANCE PROGRAM.

FOMID: 08122259

DATE: 04/21/87

TIME: 12:22:59

LOCATION: KETCHIKAN LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

ADAMS	BARNES	BENNETT
BOUCHER	BOYER	BINKLEY
BROWN	CATO	COGHILL
COLLINS	COTTEN	DUNCAN
DAVIDSON	DAVIS	ELIASON
DONLEY	ELLIS	FAHRENKAMP
FRANK	FURNACE	FAIKS
GOLL	GRUENBERG	FISCHER
GRUSSENDORF	HANLEY	HALFORD
HERRMANN	HOFFMAN	HENSLEY
HUDSON	KOPCHEN	JONES
LARSON	MARTIN	JOSEPHSON
MENARD	MILLER	KELLY
NAVARRE	PEARCE	KERTTULA
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	RODEY
POURCHOT	RIEGER	STURGULEWSKI
SHULTZ	SPRINGER	SZYMAWSKI
SUID	SHACKHAMMER	UEHLING
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF
WALLIS	ZAWACKI	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ABOOD

NAME: HELEN WOMACK
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 746 9TH AVE.
CITY: FAIRBANKS
PHONE: 451-6415

ZIP: 99701

BILL NO: HB 4
SUBJECT: EXTENDING ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION
MESSAGE: IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION BE CONTINUED
AND FUNDED AS PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNOR. ALSO, THAT THE AWC NOT BE COMBINED
WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. I URGE THAT THE AWC BILL BE MOVED QUICKLY
THROUGH THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. EOM/AN

FOIID: 07125753
DATE: 04/21/87
TIME: 12:57:53
LOCATION: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

BOYER
DAVIS
FRANK
KOPONEN
MILLER
BENNETT
COGHILL
FAHRENKAMP

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ABOOD

NAME: CARRIE FARR
TITLE:
ADDRESS: BOX 80864
CITY: FAIRBANKS
PHONE: 455-6416

ZIP: 99708

BILL NO: HJR 4
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR-FREE SUBARCTIC, ARCTIC, & ALASKA
MESSAGE: PLEASE VOTE FOR HJR4. I HOPE YOU WILL HELP HJR4 GET THROUGH THE
COMMITTEES AND INTO THE FULL SENATE FOR A VOTE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ALASKA
SUPPORTS A NUCLEAR FREEZE AS SHOWN BY LAST SUMMER'S VOTE. PLEASE SUPPORT
THE NUCLEAR FREE ARCTIC. EOM/AN

FOIID: 07124129
DATE: 04/21/87
TIME: 12:41:29
LOCATION: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

BINKLEY
FISCHER
HALFORD
HENSLEY
JONES
KELLY
STURGULEWSKI
SZYMAWSKI
UEHLING
ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ABOOD

NAME: MIKE GEIL

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 1641 GILLAM WAY

CITY: FAIRBANKS

PHONE: 451-6998

ZIP: 99701

BILL NO: HJR 4

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR-FREE SUBARCTIC, ARCTIC, & ALASKA

MESSAGE: I URGE YOU TO SUPPORT HJR4. PLEASE HELP THIS RESOLUTION THROUGH THE

SENATE COMMITTEES FOR A VOTE ON THE SENATE FLOOR. LAST SUMMER'S FREEZE

INITIATIVE PASSED IN YOUR DISTRICT. PLEASE HONOR THE WISHES OF YOUR

CONSTITUENCY. SUPPORT A NUCLEAR FREE ARCTIC.

EOM-FZ

POID: 07130421

DATE: 04/21/87

TIME: 13:04:21

LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

BENNETT
BINKLEY
COGHILL
FAIKS
FISCHER
HALFORD
HENSLEY
JONES
KELLY
STURGULEWSKI
SZYMANSKI
UEHLING
ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ABOOD

NAME: VALERIE THERRIEN, ATTORNEY AT LAW

TITLE: MEMBER OF THE BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

ADDRESS: 779 8TH AVE.

CITY: FAIRBANKS

PHONE: 452-6194

ZIP: 99701

BILL NO:

SUBJECT: WOMEN'S COMMISSION

MESSAGE: I URGE YOU TO SUPPORT THE FUNDING OF THE COMMISSION AND ITS CONTINUED

EXISTENCE. THE WORK THAT THE COMMISSION DOES IS VALUABLE TO OUR COMMUNITY. IT

IS A REAL BENEFIT TO ALL MEMBERS OF OUR STATE.

EOM-FZ

POID: 07124342

DATE: 04/21/87

TIME: 12:43:42

LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

FAIKS
HENSLEY
JOSEPHSON
UEHLING



Alaska Women's Resource Center

111 W. 9th Ave., Suite 4 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501 • (907) 276-0528

Women's Comm

APR 17 1987
RECEIVED

APR 21 1987

The Honorable Mitch Abood
Chairman, State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Senate
Room 423, Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Abood:

As you perhaps remember, I was one of the people who was to testify on behalf of the continuation of the Alaska Women's Commission, but the hearing ran out of time. For that reason, I would like to place these remarks on the record.

The Alaska Women's Resource Center (AWRC), incorporated since 1975, offers general support to all women, and specific counseling surrounding issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, teenage pregnancy, employment readiness counseling and job opportunities, and houses a facility for recovering public inebriate women.

Considering the economic condition of the Municipality and the State, not only is the Alaska Women's Commission facing a sunset review, so too are many of the agencies which serve the needs of women. It is in that vein that the Alaska Women's Resource Center lauds the efforts of the Alaska Women's Commission. With our resources so strained, we are unable to devote staff or even volunteer time to the necessary research to make our case before various funding agencies. So we are especially pleased that the Women's Commission has chosen to publish the results of some exceptionally fine studies into the status of women in Alaska. Our agency daily uses the "Legal Rights Handbook", and looks forward to the work undertaken regarding the economic status of women following divorce and dissolution.

AWRC appreciates the organizational and monitoring abilities of the Commission with regard to proposed or pending legislation. It is the one place where we can get a reading on all such pieces of legislation, their current status, their likelihood of passage and their impact on women. We also appreciate the thorough research and the excellent network to all agencies serving women. Despite its significantly reduced funding, we hope it maintains the emphasis upon both research and legislative monitoring.

The Honorable Mitch Abood
April 17, 1987

Page 2

The Alaska Women's Resource Center strongly supports the continuation of the Alaska Women's Commission. It is our sincere hope that the Senate State Affairs Committee recommends a due pass. Thank you for your consideration of this information.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Heather Flynn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Heather Flynn
Executive Director

women's Comm

April 11, 1987

Dear Senator,

I'm writing today to ask you to stop funding for the women's commission. In these times of greatly reduced state monies we need to weed out such program especially when it doesn't reflect the views of the majority of women. I really resent the name because it implies that it is reflecting the views of women. This commission stands for the things I'm opposed to. Please stop this senseless misuse of state funds.

Sincerely,

Loth Railing

7020 Viturnum

Anchorage AK 99507

RECEIVED

APR 15 1987

April 12, 1987

P.O. Box 926

Wrangell, Alaska 99929

State Affairs Committee

Senator Mitch Abood, Chairman

P.O. Box 1

Juneau, Alaska 99811

HB 4
M

Dear Senator Abood:

I urge you to vote no on HB-4 as I believe it is an impractical use of our declining tax dollars. I think that the monies that fund the Alaska Women's Commission would be of more benefit to women through social services, community schools, day care assistance, education, etc.

Please vote no on HB-4.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Ruby Taylor

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ABOOD

NAME: GEORGE ALLEN
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 307 BUNNELL ST.
CITY: ANCHORAGE
PHONE: N/A-

ZIP: 99508

BILL NO:
SUBJECT: AK COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
MESSAGE: PLEASE PASS SB60 ON COMMUNITY COLLEGE. IT HAS PROVEN TO BE LOW COST CLASSES BEARED TO THE INTEREST AND OURS OF MANY PEOPLE. COMBINING WITH THE UNIVERSITY WOULD GIVE FEWER CHOICES OF SUBJECTS, HIRE COST AND GRADUAL FACING OUT COMPLETELY, WHICH WOULD DISAPPOINT MANY PEOPLE.

POMID: 03150622
DATE: 04/16/87
TIME: 15:06:22
LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

BENNETT
BINKLEY
COGHILL
DUNCAN
ELIASON
FAHRENKAMP
FAIKS
FISCHER
HALFORD
HENSLEY
JONES
JOSEPHSON
KELLY
KERTTULA
RODEY
STURGULEWSKI
SZYMANSKI
UEHLING
ZHAROFF

RECEIVED
APR 21 1987

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ABOOD

NAME: BETTY CHAVERS
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 7020 GIBBS HILL CIRCLE
CITY: ANCHORAGE
PHONE: 338-5477

ZIP: 99504

BILL NO: HB 4
SUBJECT: EXTENDING ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION
MESSAGE: PLEASE DO ALL YOU CAN TO STOP THE RENEWING OT THE WOMENS COMMISSION I AM A WORKING WOMAN, MOTHER AND WIFE AND I DO NOT FEEL THEY REPRESENT THE BEST INTEREST OF WOMEN IN THE STATE OF ALASKA.

POMID: 03155507
DATE: 04/16/87
TIME: 15:55:07
LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

BARNES
FURNACE

FAIKS
HALFORD
HENSLEY
JOSEPHSON
KELLY
UEHLING

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ABOOD

NAME: SHIRLEY HARDUAR
TITLE:
ADDRESS: PO BOX 110241
CITY: ANCHORAGE
PHONE: 345-3580
BILL NO: HB 4
SUBJECT: EXTENDING ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION
MESSAGE: I AM STRONGLY AGAINST KEEPING THE COMMISSION IN EXISTENCE THROUGH
STATE FUNDING. FOR THE GREATER PART, THE COMMISSION DOES NOT REFLECT MY VIEWS
AND I DO NOT WANT MY TAX DOLLARS TO SUPPORT IT.

ZIP: 99511

POMID: 03164454
DATE: 04/16/87
TIME: 16:44:54
LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

FAIKS
HENSLEY
JOSEPHSON
UEHLING

79
RECEIVED
APR 21 1987

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR ABOOD

NAME: DAVID DEHART

TITLE:

ADDRESS: BOX 1267

CITY: WASILLA, AK.

PHONE: 892-6589

ZIP: 99688

BILL NO:

SUBJECT: SPENDING MONEY

MESSAGE: I WANT TO ASK THE LEGISLATIVE BODY IF WE ARE IN A DIRER NEED OF MONEY IN THIS STATE, WHY WE ARE SPENDING MONEY ON MEAT PROCESSING PLANT IN PALMER, MATINUSKA MAID, STATE FUNDED ABORTION CLINICS, AND WOMEN'S COMMISSION.

POMID: 03094034

DATE: 04/17/87

TIME: 09:40:34

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

ADAMS	BARNES	BENNETT
BOUCHER	BOYER	BINKLEY
BROWN	CATO	COGHILL
COLLINS	COTTEN	DUNCAN
DAVIDSON	DAVIS	ELIASON
DONLEY	ELLIS	FAHRENKAMP
FRANK	FURNACE	FAIKS
GOLL	GRUENBERG	FISCHER
GRUSSENDORF	HANLEY	HALFORD
HERRMANN	HOFFMAN	HENSLEY
HUDSON	KOPONEN	JONES
LARSON	MARTIN	JOSEPHSON
MENARD	MILLER	KELLY
NAVARRE	PEARCE	KERTTULA
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	RODEY
PCURCHOT	RIEGER	STURGULEWICKY
SHULTZ	SPRINGER	SZYMANSKI
SUND	SWACKHAMMER	UEHLING
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF
WALLIS	ZAWACKI	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR A6000

NAME: ELEANOR PILTZ

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 2711 BRITTANY DRIVE

CITY: ANCHORAGE, AK

PHONE: 337-7262

ZIP: 99504

BILL NO:

SUBJECT: ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION

MESSAGE: I DO NOT WANT TO SEE THE FUNDING RENEWED FOR THE ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION. PLEASE VOTE TO CUT THIS OUT OF THE BUDGET.

POMID: 03100124

DATE: 04/17/87

TIME: 10:01:24

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

UEHLING
FAIKS
HENSLEY
JOSEPHSON

RECEIVED
APR 21 1987



April 14, 1987

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee:

You have before you House Bill 4 which provides an additional four years of service by the Alaska Women's Commission. Support for the Commission has been shown by the Alaska House of Representatives by not only passing this bill, but also providing adequate funding in the FY 88 budget.

It is now for you to decide whether the important work of this agency is allowed to continue. The League of Women Voters of Alaska urges you to support this bill. As the Alaska Women's Commission is the only state agency that speaks for all women of Alaska, its work is unique.

The Alaska State Legislature is charged with the task of maintaining programs and services which the public has come to expect in the face of shrinking revenues. Each service must be evaluated not only on its cost-effectiveness, but also on the costs of not having the service.

There are still many hurdles to be met before it can truly be said that sex-related discrimination in our laws and in our society is a thing of the past. Women need an advocate inside the bureaucracy to ensure fair treatment for half the state's population. But we need more than just a voice: we need the types of services now supplied only by the Commission. These have included: workshops for rural and urban women; proposed legislation and review of current laws to end sex discrimination; publications to educate women on laws, insurance, pensions and politics.

The Alaska Women's Commission has proven its ability to produce significant work. Please allow this to continue.

Sincerely,

Kate Graham
Legislative Liaison

ALASKA WOMEN'S LOBBY

POST OFFICE BOX 10-1571, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510

April 17, 1987

The Honorable Mitch Abood
Chairman
Senate State Affairs Committee
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Chairman Abood and members of the Committee:

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

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

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

During 1985, the Commission initiated a comprehensive review of Alaska statutes to identify those statutory provisions which run counter to the principle of equal rights. The review identified over 80 statutes needing revision. The review was conducted and coordinated by the staff of the Women's Commission, utilizing the volunteered expertise of Alaska Bar Association members, the volunteer efforts of other Alaskan women's organizations and the help of many individual Alaskans.

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

Since 1950, Alaskan women have increased their labor force participation by 548%, but over 62% are concentrated in low-paying occupations. In fact, over one-quarter of Alaska's families headed by women are living in poverty.

2

The Women's Commission has, over the years, provided the women of Alaska with a forum for advocacy and education through its statewide and regional conferences and workshops, and through the distribution of its publications such as the Legal Rights Handbook, fact sheets on insurance, pensions, education and politics.

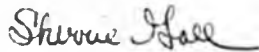
The Women's Commission has been responsible for the initiation of an expanded state register to increase the hiring of women in ranges 18 and above, and has worked to increase the recruitment and hiring of Native women.

It functions as a clearinghouse for information on services, programs, legislation and issues relating to women's concerns in the state of Alaska today.

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sherrie Goll
for the Alaska Women's Lobby

APRIL 23, 1987

WC

TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE STATE AFFAIR COMMITTEE RE: HB4

SENATORS:

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REVIEW OF THE ALASKA WOMEN'S COMMISSION. IT IS ONLY PROPER THAT DURING A REVIEW MANDATED BY THE SUNSET STATUTES, THAT A BROAD SPECTRUM OF ALASKANS HAVE A CHANCE TO OFFER THEIR OPINIONS AND OBSERVATIONS.

IN 1975, AS A RECENTLY ARRIVED ALASKAN RESIDENT I BECAME AWARE OF AN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A STATUS OF WOMEN COMMISSION. AFTER CONCERTED EFFORTS, AND THE IMPETUS AFFORDED THE MOVEMENT BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE 1977 IWY CONFERENCE HELD IN ANCHORAGE, THE COMMISSION BECAME REALITY. IN THE NEARLY TEN YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE, THE COMMISSION HAS ACCOMPLISHED NUMEROUS TASKS WITH VERY SMALL APPROPRIATIONS. THEY HAVE PUBLISHED MANY DEFINITIVE REPORTS, HELD NECESSARY CONFERENCES AND FORUMS, IN GENERAL BEEN A CATALYST FOR MANY OF THE GOOD THINGS THAT HAVE IMPROVED THE LOT OF WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND MINORITIES. THEY SUCCESSFULLY OBTAINED OUTSIDE FUNDING TO FURTHER THEIR PROJECTS, NEVER PARTICIPATING IN THE USUAL POLITICAL PLOY OF INFLATED BUDGET REQUESTS EVEN DURING THE "OIL BOOM" ERA.

NOW, I FEEL THE COMMISSION IS UNDER HARSH SCRUTINY WHICH IS UNDESERVED. AS I LOOK OVER THE BUDGET, I SHARE WITH YOU THE CONCERN OF HOW TO DO SO MUCH WITH SO LITTLE - BUILDING A BUDGET TO FIT THE FAMILY'S MEANS IS A FREQUENT TASK OF A WOMAN -SO WE ARE FULLY COGNIZANT OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE TASK BEFORE YOU. MY CONCERN IS THAT WHAT I HEAR IN HEARINGS INDICATES A WILLINGNESS TO CUT FIRST AND DEEPEST THOSE PROGRAMS WHICH AFFECT THOSE WHO CAN LEAST AFFORD A LOSS OF REPRESENTATION DURING LEAN TIMES: IE WOMEN, CHILDREN AND MINORITIES.

AS A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN, STATEWIDE I LISTEN MONTHLY TO REPORTS ON THE BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS AND THEIR PROBABLE IMPACT ON PROGRAMS SERVING THIS CONSTITUENCY. I AM DISMAYED TO THINK THAT NOW WHEN WE MOST NEED A STRONG ADVOCATE AS THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN, IT IS IN JEOPARDY. PRESENTLY THE SUGGESTED LEVEL OF FUNDING FOR THE COMMISSION IS LOWER THAN THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED IN 1981; LESS THAN \$1 PER FEMALE IN THIS STATE - LESS THAN .02% OF GENERAL FUNDS IN FY88.

I FEEL THAT WITH THE COMMISSION'S GOOD REPUTATION, COUPLED WITH THEIR ABILITY TO CAREFULLY MANAGE THEIR FUNDS, THEY SHOULD BE RE-AUTHORIZED AND AT THE LEVEL OF FUNDING SUGGESTED BY THE GOVERNOR. IN THIS TIME OF FISCAL CRISIS, WE CAN LEAST AFFORD TO LOSE THE VERY ORGANIZATION THAT CAN BEST MAKE ALL OF US AWARE OF THE GAPS CREATED BY LOWERING LEVELS OF FUNDING. THE COMMISSION IS THE ESTABLISHED POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS MINORITY ORGANIZATIONS, AND A WHOLE HOST OF INDIVIDUALS. YOUR WILLINGNESS TO RISK ALIENATION OF THIS CONSTITUENCY BY A

RETURN TO PRE-1978 CHAOS, IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE.

I URGE YOU TO PASS THIS LEGISLATION ON THE TO OTHER SENATE
COMMITTEES OF REFERRAL QUICKLY.

Janice L Foster
9601 Spring Hill Dr
Anchorage AK 99507
346-1154

Henre Falls

"Against"

I have seen several projects
The Ak Womens Commission has
worked on recently. Some are
worth while + some are not
so worth while. "The Women's
Legal Rights in Ak" is worth while
However the "booklet" "Commitment
or Complacency" to me is a
waste of government money.
It cost \$10,000 to print this
pamphlet according to the
director Christine Callahan.
This booklet ~~is~~ and the
time spent making it
is to check up on ^{people +} government
and make sure laws are being

#2 Glenn Ralls Cont'd.

enforced. Do we ~~want~~ ^{need} to
check up on people every time
a new law is passed. No!

We are not wanting a
Communist Government!

At this time I believe
the economy is tight and
we need to be using
our money for jobs that
are necessary to keep
place and for social
~~services~~ ^{workers}. Such as ~~are~~ ^{those}
checking ^{up on} child abuse. These
jobs are not staffed
adequately at this time.
and could use \$25,000 very
nicely - Thank you.

WC

p1 of 2

Testimony to Senate State Affairs, Apr. 23, 1987
Re: HB 4 - Extension of Alaska Commission
on the Status of Women.

By: Sylvia Fink (Mrs.); librarian by profession.

I will address only two ^{of the} areas with which
I am personally familiar.

As a librarian, I know the Commission has
been a major contributor to a data base of
substantive information related to Alaska women.
This information provides a base of other
Alaskan organizations seeking to extend
research or those organizations applying
for grants in related areas of interest. In the
early 1970's the National Science Foundation
distributed a rationale for rejection of grants -
one of the major reasons was lack of
adequate research base. The Commission
is providing this statistical information
which has not been collected by other State
or private agencies; therefore, non-continuation
of the Commission will have a negative
ripple effect on all other individuals or
groups.

4-23-57

Senate Affairs Committee

I do not favor HB-4. Please
vote against this bill. Lets
save the State of Alaska some
money!

Sincerely,

Harold Rasmussen

1545 S. Hope, '9

Anchorage, AK

99508

APL 23 '87 15:34 LIO - FAIRBANKS

P.1

Sen. Abood

TELECOPY COVER SHEET

FAIRBANKS INFORMATION OFFICE

TO: JNU/LIO

FOR: Senate State Affairs Cmte. PHONE: _____

TESTIMONY RE: HB4- AK Women's Commission

FROM: Donna Troutlet & Deanna Adams PHONE: _____

Please copy and distribute to S. STATE AFFAIRS

INSTRUCTIONS: Sen. Abood, Sen. Lehling, Sen. Fairs, Sen. Hensley, Sen. Josephson

DATE/TIME SENT: 4/23 3:30 pm SENT BY: mje

PLEASE ACK. RECEIPT: ✓ HOLD FOR PICK-UP: _____

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CORRECTION

**THIS DOCUMENT
HAS BEEN REPHOTOGRAPHED
TO ASSURE LEGIBILITY**



STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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

FY88 Budget Information

- The total request for the Alaska Women's Commission budget for state general funds for FY88 is \$251.5.
- Since 1986 the Commission's budget has been cut 24%.
- Ten Commissioners serve voluntarily, without pay or stipend.
- The FY88 request includes cutting one full-time professional position. This represented 33% of the total professional staff.
- The 3 remaining positions are:
 - executive director - handles all administration, supervision, budgeting and work plans. Solicits additional sources of funding. Staffs all Commission committees. Advocates for legislative platform. Provides public presentations on Commission activities. Plans and implements workshops, seminars and conferences.
 - research analyst/information officer - handles more than 1000 information requests per year. Designs and conducts complex research projects. Writes quarterly newsletter. Edits all publications. Assists in educational programs.
 - secretary - receptionist, office manager. Maintains mailing list of over 2000. All typing and word processing, supplies, travel arrangements, and distribution of publications. More than 14,000 publications were distributed in 1986.
- The Commission has sought and secured additional sources of federal, state and corporate funding since 1983. It has also secured and coordinated thousands of volunteer hours each year, providing an estimated in-kind contribution of \$20,000-\$30,000 worth of professional services per year.
- Even when oil revenues were high the Commission did not seek any major budget increases. Today's budget represents nearly the exact same amount the Commission received in 1981, adjusted for inflation.
- It requires a basic level of operation and staff to write grants to pursue additional funding at the same that research and advocacy efforts are continued. The Commission has reached that level.

4-23-87

Senate Affairs Committee -

I do not favor HB-4. Please
vote against this bill. Lets
save the state of Alaska some
money!

Sincerely,

Harold Russell

1545 S. Hope, '9

Anchorage, AK

905018

APL 23 '87 15:34 LIO - FAIRBANKS

P.1

Sen. Abood

TELECOPY COVER SHEET

FAIRBANKS INFORMATION OFFICE

TO: JNU/LIO

FOR: Senate State Affairs Cmte.

PHONE: _____

TESTIMONY: RE: HB4- AK Women's Commission

FROM: Donna Trentler & Seanna Adams

PHONE: _____

Please copy and distribute to S.STATE AFFAIRS

INSTRUCTIONS: Sen. Abood, Sen. Uehling, Sen. Fuiks., Sen. Hensley, Sen. Josephson

DATE/TIME SENT: 4/23 3:30 pm

SENT BY: mjo

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NUMBER OF PAGES: 2

(NOT COUNTING COVER SHEET)

APR 23 7 87 15:34 LIO - FAIRBANKS

From: Donna Norbet To: Senate State Affairs P.2
798 Hygrade Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712
907-457-5007

HB 4

Alaska Women enjoy many freedoms, rights + pleasures. One pleasure for some has been the Ak Women's Commission. Alaska women are a strong, determined and resourceful bunch.

This is why I feel that the sunsetting of the Ak Womens Commission would not be a blow to Alaska Women. We can hold our own with out it.

We have ample support by our Gov. our reps. (both male + female) and our Senators (both male + female) to suffice us should ~~the~~ ^a need or ~~needs~~ arise.

I do not mind standing aside and letting the commission go so that other projects can have the needed money to function for all Ak people. In this time of lack of funds I encourage you and support you in the sunsetting of the Ak. Women's Commission.

Thank You -

T.O: Senator Abood and the State Affairs Committee

I urge this committee to vote for the extension of the Alaska Women's Commission. The Commission has served Alaska well and needs to continue its work of sponsoring workshops and conferences, of publishing research material not otherwise available, of promoting legislation that will improve the status of Alaskan women.

Despite what our dreams may be for the women of Alaska, we continue to have tremendous problems to overcome, such as a high rate of domestic violence which means women and children live in daily fear, such as women's jobs are still paid only 59 cents to a man's job of \$1.00; such as women continue to be underrepresented in our legislature, in upper management, in influential positions. By giving women around the state the opportunity to learn what resources are in Alaska, to learn what we can do to improve the Alaskan living situation, the Alaska Women's Commission has played a vital role in women's lives. We need to keep the Commission and I urge each of you to vote for passage of this bill. Thank you.

Deanne L Adams

Deanne L- Adams

PO Box 1853

Fair banks, AK 99707

TELECOPY COVER SHEET

KETCHIKAN LIO(225-9675)

TO: Juneau LIO PHONE _____

FROM: Ketchikan LIO for Paula Ziegler PHONE 225-9675

INSTRUCTIONS: Testimony for Senate State Affairs Committee teleconference
on HB 4/Women's Commission - 4/23/87 T/C

RECEIVED: DATE 4/23/87 TIME _____

SENT: DATE 4/23/87 TIME 4:15 pm

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SENT BY: emj

2. Disruptive forces are at work in Alaska families. The AWC is not one of them. The divorce rate here is 62%, compared with 49% nationally. The AWC did not create this situation; ~~we do not encourage divorce.~~ But that high rate here is a fact, and we must deal with it. So what the AWC does is provide information about what a woman's legal rights are, advocate for legislation to ~~protect the~~ rights of both parties and their children, and engage in a research project to determine the economic impact of divorce in Alaska. Homemakers. The divorce rate in Alaska is a problem; eliminating the AWC is not the solution.

Over half of all Alaska women work outside the home, most single-parent families are headed by women, and most families below the poverty level are headed by women. The AWC did not create this situation, but we must help deal with it and the child care, employment and public assistance implications it brings about. Legal Rights Conference. Parental leave legislation.

Economic and social disruption of families is a problem; eliminating the AWC is not the solution.

3. The last issue is about the representativeness of the AWC. By statute, the AWC is charged with the responsibility of achieving equal (not special) legal, economic and social status for all women in Alaska. Our goal really isn't to speak for all women as much as it is to speak about all women and to all women. The information we produce is for all women. The advocacy effort we make is on behalf of all women. Whether all women avail themselves of our work is up to them; not all may chose to do so and some may disagree. / ^{The more theoretical communitate & become part of the process.} The commission looks at the facts as determined by our research and sets policy. This is similar to what a legislature does and there, too, if disagreement about the policy is a problem, eliminating the entire institution, be it the legislature or the AWC, is not the solution. *Abortion Issue*

In closing, I return to the notion of "special" and "equal." For the last three years, women mushers have won the Iditarod. Libby Riddles and Susan Butcher did not win because as women they were special. ^{as mushers} They won because they were good and because as people they were given an equal chance to compete. That is what the work of the AWC is about, and that is why ~~we~~ urge its continuation.

PAULA ZIEGLER
307 KETCHIKAN
CANDEN 99901
St.

APR 23 '87 15:39 LEG. AFFAIRS - WASILLA

TELECOPY COVER SHEET

TO: Sen Assad PHONE: _____

FROM: Nat-Su L10 PHONE: 376-3704

INSTRUCTIONS: testimony on HB 4

RECEIVED DATE: _____ TIME: _____

SENT DATE: 4/23/87 TIME: 3:40 pm

BY: (YOUR OFFICE AND PHONE NO.) Nat-Su L10 376-3704

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My name is Susan Alexander, I am an English teacher at Palmer High School. One of my English classes is Women in Literature which the Women's Commission helped to advocate. You will be interested to know that this year half of ^{that} / class is boys.

As a teacher of students and of English, when women are equally represented in textbooks and in the selection of literature to be studied then perhaps we can consider sunsetting the Women's Commission, but not until then.

My husband, Dor Lehmen, social studies teacher and girl's track coach, supports my position and knows how much the Alaska Women's Commission has done to make it possible for girls to participate equally in athletics. He believes we need the Women's Commission to continue monitoring in the waive of budget cuts.

P.O. Box 870157
Wasilla 99687

Forty years ago, when I enrolled at Fairbanks High School, girls couldn't take subjects like physics or shop--those were boys subjects. Today all students are able to study courses within their intellectual capability regardless of sex.

Thirty-five years ago I competed with a male in an essay contest for a scholarship at the University of Alaska. My entry was judged the better, but he got the money because everyone "knew girls never did anything with an education". Today womens' efforts in endeavors like that are judged on their own merits.

Three of my daughters have helped themselves through college by playing basketball, because Title IX assured them equal access to athletics as well as instruction.

I worked for 30 years as a homemaker and farm wife--longer hours and harder work than many men ever do--yet I have no Social Security benefits accrued from this work. When I entered the job market in 1980 I was given no credit for any of this work--not cost accounting farm books--not skill as a cook--not even as a farm laborer!--by our own State Job Service, so I ended up with a low paying clerical job, traditional women's work.

When my husband died I got nothing from his contributions to a Union retirement plan, I got nothin for myself from Social Security. If I had not already been employed and if he had not had the foresight and wherewithall to leave our family protected by life insurance, I would have been forced to sell my house, reduce my family's standard of living, my children may well have been forced to quit college, and quite possibly we would have had to apply for public assistance.

I regard agencies such as the State Women's Commission the most valuable asset women--not working women, all women--have in redressing these unfair facts of life. These largely unpaid commissioners are every woman's advocate for equality in education, equality in employment opportunities, pension reform, access to child care and health care. It's one of the most cost effective government agencies in this State and one responsive to the needs of 50% of the citizens of this State. I urge that these valuable services be retained.

Mary E. Welch
Wasilla, Alaska

PS I can't attend this hearing in person because it is scheduled during work hours

SR A Box 6470
Wasilla 99687

My name is Bernice Linn and I am a guidance counselor at Palmer High School.

I support the retention of the Alaska Womens' Commission particularly as its activities relates to the "not so trivial pursuit of identity in adolescence". There is evidence to support what I witness each day -- the need for enhancement of self concept in teen age girls -- the need to support networks that clarify life role preferences -- traditional and non-traditional -- the need for collaboration to support gratifying adult roles for women.

I am concerned not only as these topics relate to my professional life but also with the future of my two granddaughters and the opportunities that I believe should be open for them.

P.O. Box 276
Palmer 99645

TELECOPY COVER SHEET

TO: Sen. Abroad / Senate State Affairs PHONE: _____

FROM: Nome LHO / Becka PHONE: 443-5535

INSTRUCTIONS: Written testimony from t/c, on HB4

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BY: (YOUR OFFICE AND PHONE NO.)

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Please deliver

Delia Iyapana
President of Kawerak, Inc.

My name is Delia Iyapana. I am testifying on behalf of Caleb Pungowiyi, President of Kawerak, Inc. who is currently traveling on business, out of state.

My testimony is in support of the Alaska Women's Commission and request the Senate to approve the bill extending the Alaska Women's Commission. I believe that the Women's Commission has not only addressed issues and problems affecting women and families in Alaska but has made concrete recommendations for solutions to problems.

I firmly believe the State of Alaska will realize a greater benefit by continuing the Alaska Women's Commission and their work to improve the status of women. *Thank you.*

①

RE: HB 4 -- Extending the Alaska Women's Commission

I feel that the Women's Commission has played a vital part in improving the Women's position in Alaskan society. Their research projects in documenting child abuse, marital abuse and the abuse of the elderly has brought attention to these problems. They have worked on mental health problems which include alcoholism and drug abuse problems. One of the new thrusts is the effect of alcoholism on the fetus.

I attended the Sitka Women's Conference last year which was funded by the Women's Commission. I was moderator on a discussion group on handling teenage problems. I also wrote it up for the S.E. Log. I thought it was very excellent. We need more of such conferences. There is much yet to do in the Women's area and I hope the commission will be continued. It has addressed issues facing women and families as perhaps no other group has. Look what has been done on child abuse alone. I see the need for more shelters for children who find themselves in an impossible home situation. They need a place to go which isn't the streets as a runaway.

Marilyn George
Box 1032
Petersburg, AK 99833

(Resident since 1946)

RECEIVED
APR 28 1987

w/c

-testimony-

I realize that you have no control over the Constitution of the United States, but you do control State funding. Please eliminate the Alaska women's Commission as they actively support ^{abortion,} lesbianism and homosexuality. It has been said that we cannot legislate morality, but it appears that we are doing our best to legislate immorality.

Alicia Young
Box 1104
Petersburg, AK

teleconference testimony

April 22, 1987

Dear Senator Abood,

I do not support extending the Alaska Women's Commission. This commission does not represent all Alaskan women. After reading several reports and documents written by this group I found several things that I strongly oppose. I was alarmed to find support of gay and lesbian life styles. Everyday we are becoming more aware of the destructive consequences of the break down of the traditional, heterosexual family unit.

Throughout the documents is found the endorsement of abortion, and the active promotion of using state dollars to fund abortions. I believe that human life starts at conception and must be protected. I also believe that the unborn child is just one victim of abortion; many women are left with severe emotional scars after they learn the truth about abortion. It upsets me to think that our government would support this destructive practice through a state commission.

There are real needs of women and children to be met, but there are many groups set up to meet these needs. This women's group should not be state endorsed or funded. These women have a right to be an organization, but not a commission authorized and funded by our state government.

Thank You.

Alana Pfundt
Box 855
Petersburg, Ak. 99833

~~7-24-87~~
DATE

TO: Sen. Abood & S-SA Cmt
FR: Susan McClear

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Sitkans Against Family Violence

April 23, 1987

Senate State Affairs Committee
Mitch Abood, Chair

Thank you for taking the time to listen to testimony on the Women's Commission. I would like to encourage you to continue the Commission as one of the most cost effective methods of assisting a major portion of the population of the state.

As State funding drops, it is critical that we take advantage of those organizations which can provide coordination between programs. Projects like the "Women's Legal Rights In Alaska", published by the Commission in 1981 with revisions in 1984, have been literally invaluable in our assistance to victimized women.

The Commission budget is very small relative to the potential good that they can accomplish.

Sincerely,

Susan McCleat
Director

DATE _____

TO: Senate State Affairs

FR: Participants in Hearing on HB 4

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Testimony included from:

Bertha Karras 1 p.

Mary Jo McNally 2 pp.

Shirley Demmert 3 pp.

Peggy Rogers 1 p.

April 23, 1987

Testimony on HB 4 for Senate State Affairs

My name is Bertha Karras, Native American. I am against funding the Alaska Women's Commission. I really don't feel a person like myself is well represented as a homemaker. How many people believe in a woman staying home any more? Or would encourage others that way? We have a big role -- guiding children, caring for them, leading to less sex abuse -- our society strengthened by being home.

Bertha Karras
230 Kogwanton
Sitka AK 99835

Senate State Affairs Committee

4/23/87

Mr. Chair, members of the Committee, my name is Mary D. McNally and I am the chair of the Sitka Women's Council. I would like to make a few comments as to why I would like to see the Alaska Women's Commission sunset at this time. I am opposed to a state-funded group being allowed to lobby on behalf of legislation which does not support my views and the views of many, many others in our state.

Also, at the Alaska Women's Commission meeting in Juneau on March 24, 1987, it was discussed that the Concerned Women for America group has certain complaints about the Women's Commission. Let me take a few minutes and read some notes from someone who attended the conference:

Concerned Women of America group from Sitka had some complaints against the Women's Commission. To fight them, talk about their complaints on economic terms.

- When they talk about our supporting abortion, counter by saying we support a legal operation, and that women are discriminated against if it is not funded.

- CWA's complaint that our commission does not represent all women. Counter by saying "These women are left out by their choice. This commission works in all areas, Republicanism, Democrats, etc. If they don't avail themselves of work of the Commission it is their own fault. Talk about these complaints in these terms.

I find it very discouraging to know that we have a group of women advocating only what some of the women in Alaska want. They are not the least bit interested in hearing any views that may be different from their own.

My voice is clearly not represented on this Commission. The voice of the majority of the Sitka Women's Council is not represented on this Commission. And it probably even not need be mentioned that the voices of many, many women in Alaska are not being represented by this Commission.

In conclusion, I would ask you to please seriously look at the need for a Commission of this type in Alaska, especially since the views they hold are already heavily lobbied by private groups such as the League of Women Voters, Business & Professional Women, etc.

Let's not spend our State's limited budget dollars on something that is only a duplication of other outside organizations. Let's not have a group of women that speak only for a portion of women; think that they, in fact, represent the majority of women in our State.

Please, let your sound judgment and wisdom prevail and let HB 7 be allowed to sunset at this time.

Thank you very much for your time.

Mary D. McNally
608 BMC
Sitka, AK 99835

316 Wortman Loop
Sitka AK 99835

Senate State Affairs Committee,

My name is Shirley Demmert. I have lived in Sitka for 14 years. I am an instructor in Adult Basic Ed, the director of the pregnancy aid office in Sitka and the area director of Concerned Women for Alaska. I am also a member of the Sitka Women's Council and I speak today as a representative of many women who do not support the extention or funding of the Alaska Women's Commission.

I have been told that it is impossible to support the Sitka Council + not support the state commission, but I disagree and I would like to tell you why.

The Sitka Women's Council has been a group with representation from both the liberal and the conservative viewpoints. We have been sensitive to the women of Sitka, soliciting their input and focusing on their priorities. We conducted an extensive needs assessment and chose to focus on the family, the ~~survey~~ ^{top} area of concern in our survey. We are learning to work together and find areas of agreement and cooperation.

2.) I oppose the continuation of the AWC for the same reasons I support our local Council.

1. Representation - The Status Report issued by the AWC (Oct/Nov 86) issue states that the AWC is the "only state agency which speaks for all women of Alaska."

I find that very interesting - when there is no conservative representation, when no input is solicited - when the criticisms & concerns about their legislative package and agenda have not been taken seriously.

In the March meeting of the AWC in Juneau (1987) the topic of complaints and criticisms against the Commission was brought up. The discussion that followed centered on ways to fight the complaints, not on ways to encourage input, to compromise, or to encourage representation of any other point of view. I find it disturbing that a group of women that seeks justice, equality and non-discrimination would so blatantly practice the things they are fighting against.

The second reason is one of issues. This Commission has time and again supported legislation and programs that I believe are detrimental to families, to women and to our free enterprise system. Legislation that is costly to government.

Comparable worth or pay equity is a prime example of this. The institution of this system of governmental setting of wages would cost millions of dollars to implement and lock in place an inflexible salary schedule that would not reflect market conditions or respond to the laws of supply and demand.

The supporting of state funded abortions is another example. Supporting legislation to destroy our most valuable resource, our children, is detrimental not only to the unborn who are sacrificed on the altar of women's rights, but also detrimental to the women who live with the guilt of this action.

No where can I find any support from the AWC for women in crisis pregnancies who want to have their babies but need help and support. Where is the commission on this issue and why is there no support for these women?

Has the Commission asked the women of Alaska what their goals are, what their values are, what their interests are? Have they

3)

listened to criticisms of non-representation of conservative women? NO - they have their agenda that they are pushing full steam ahead. They certainly don't represent the women I know and speak for today.

I ask you to disband this Commission which is so narrow in focus, so restricted in its representation and so locked into promoting its feminist agenda.

Thank you,

Shirley Demmert

6

Senators — thank you for the opportunity to testify before you. I want to say that I believe the Alaska Women's Commission must be continued because of the valuable services it provides on behalf of Alaskan women. Last year I had the opportunity, while living in Yakutat, to attend the Women's Regional Conference in Sitka. Having lived in five different Alaskan communities, I have seen the Commission's endeavors carried out throughout the State, & it has a respected reputation throughout Alaska. The Commission's research & advocacy roles are vital to the citizens of this state. When the lives of women are improved, the lives of all Alaskan citizens are improved. I urge you today to give full support to the extension of the Alaskan Women's Commission. Thank you.

Peggy Rogers
~~Peggy Rogers~~
Box 716
Sitka AK 99835

DATE _____

TO: Senate State Affairs

FR: Jody Marcelllo

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Sitka AK 99835
April 23, 1987

Senator Abood and other members of the Senate State Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before your committee today. My name is Jody S. Marcello. As a newcomer to Alaska last August, one of the first state government groups about which I learned was the Alaska Women's Commission. In the last few months, I have had the opportunity to gain much more information about the Commission and its functions on behalf of the women of Alaska. Put bluntly, I am impressed! The amount and quality of the work done by this Commission is excellent. In particular, the Commission's research and publications are tops. The publications themselves are vital to anyone conducting research about Alaska women or anyone advocating improvements in the status of women in Alaska. This is vital information and distributed to anyone asking for it. This function alone justifies for me the extension of the Commission; however, it performs other vital functions, such as advocacy in the legislature. The Commission's research, as pointed out by Chair Kris Chatfield, has provided the necessary data to show areas of weakness in public policy, and then pointed the way to bring about statutory or policy changes to end discriminatory practices against women. The Alaska Women's Commission also serves as a messenger for other women's organizations here in Alaska.

The State of Alaska, by sustaining the Alaska Women's Commission, ^{continue it} makes a commitment to the women of Alaska ^{and} which says that we are not going to let you be left behind as we move forward into the future. If the Commission is not continued, the State will move back in time and possibly lose the support of the women of Alaska. If Alaska is not progressive in this area, it stands a chance of losing valuable women to other states where they may move forward in their lives and see the lives of other women also improving.

Thank you.



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JUNEAU AK 99811

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I DO NOT SUPPORT HB4 EXTENSION OF ALASKA WOMENS COMMISSION
BECAUSE OF THE STATE OF ALASKAS TIGHT BUDGET AND IT IS NOT
REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL OF ALASKA WOMEN. I URGE YOU TO VOTE
AGAINST THE BILL.

SHARON RHOADES

154E SOUTH HOYT SF #19

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508

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DON'T SUPPORT HB4 BECAUSE OF TIGHT BUDGET. NOT
REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL OF ALASKA'S WOMEN.

GARY RHODES

1545 SOUTH HOYT SP19

ANCHORAGE AK 99508

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SENATOR MITCH ABOOD

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IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT A SMALL BUT VOCAL GROUP CHARACTERIZED BY REACTIONARY IDEAS REGARDING WOMEN MET IN ANCHORAGE LAST WEEK WITH AN OUTSIDE ACTIVIST AND ORGANIZER TO TARGET THE ALASKA WOMENS COMMISSION FOR ELIMINATION. THEY CITED AS THEIR REASONS INACCURATE POSITIONS THAT THEY ALLEGE THE COMMISSION SUPPORTS. THEY ALLEGE THE COMMISSION SUPPORTS "EASY DIVORCE" AND "GUN CONTROL". WITH REGARD TO DIVORCE THE COMMISSIONS PRIMARY EFFORT HAS BEEN TO STRENGTHEN THE DIVORCE LAWS. WE HAVE PROMOTED HEIGHTENED SCRUTINY RATHER THAN QUICK AND EASY SOLUTIONS AND PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AS OPPOSED TO SPEED OF SETTLEMENT. CITING "GUN CONTROL" IS SIMPLY LUDICROUS. NEVER IN ITS NINE YEARS OF EXISTENCE HAS THE COMMISSION DISCUSSED THIS.



Telegram

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OTHER MISINFORMATION ABOUND AMONG CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP, WHOSE ROOTS ARE IN THE MORAL MAJORITY. FOR EXAMPLE THEY HAVE ACCUSED THE COMMISSION OF IGNORING HOMEMAKERS. IN FACT, THE COMMISSION HAS ADVOCATED MEASURES TO IMPROVE HOMEMAKERS STATURE, RESPECT AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. YOU WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE RECEIVING A NUMBER OF POMS FROM MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP WHICH WILL CONTAIN THESE OR OTHER FALSE ACCUSATIONS. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONTACT ME OR OUR OFFICE FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO PROVIDE A MORE ACCURATE PICTURE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION.

KRIS CHATFIELD, CHAIR

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APR 15 1987