

Midtown Community Council – Senator Gray-Jackson’s Report

October 9, 2019

- **HB 126, establishing November as Alaska Native Heritage Month was signed into State Statute, by Governor Dunleavy, on Saturday October 5th, at the Atwood Center on the campus of Alaska Pacific University. I had the privilege to sponsor this legislation in the Senate and was happy to see it supported 55 to 1 by my Legislative colleagues and by organizations like the First Alaskans Institute.**
- **On September 27th, Governor Dunleavy nominated Rep. Josh Revak to the Senate Seat vacated by the passing of Sen. Chris Birch. He must be approved by at least 7 of the 12 Senate Republicans in order to be confirmed.**
 - **This is a big appointment because the Governor has suggested that he may call another special session to appropriate another PFD payment, but currently the support for this action doesn’t seem to be there.**
- **The University Board of Regents voted 9-2 to cease consideration of a single accreditation model until the University of Alaska Fairbanks’ accreditation is reaffirmed in 2021. This is a step in the right direction because the feedback that I have received from faculty, the student body and the testimony given during the recent committee hearings could be most fittingly summarized as “slow down and do the homework”.**
 - **There is no assurance that a single accreditation model would save money and even the accrediting agency, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, has warned that the single accreditation model could adversely affect the status of the UA system as a whole. Going forward, I hope that these big decisions regarding the University System are done with the involvement of all the stakeholders and with the sound data.**

I hope you are enjoying my monthly E-newsletter. If you’re not receiving them, please send your email address to my staff at Keith.Bauguess@akleg.gov.