



Senator Mia Costello Alaska State Legislature



April 23, 2019

Dear friends and neighbors,

Thank you to the many of you who have taken time out of your busy schedules to reach out to me with your views, opinions, suggestions, and positions on the governor's proposed budget at this pivotal time in our history. I appreciate hearing from you welcome any further communication from you.

Many of your emails to me have been about education in the governor's proposed budget. I have long been an advocate for early funding education, which will prevent a situation where teachers are given pink slips, leave communities, and can't be rehired because they've moved on. It will not only allow districts to plan, it is estimated to save \$20 million, will prevent unnecessary instability in urban and rural districts where students come to school every year to find their favorite teacher is no longer at school. I'm committed to fighting for full education funding in this year's budget.

We are also hearing several bills that will repeal SB 91 and give our law enforcement officers the tools they need to keep us safe. You can read more about these bills below. Please reach out to me if you would like to discuss them, or any other issue. My number is (907) 465-4968, or you can email me at Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov.

Thank you for your passion and your commitment to make our state a better place.

Sincerely,

Mia's constitutional amendment

I have introduced SJR 9, which is a constitutional amendment. It would require the governor to submit a separate appropriation bill, alongside the operating budget, to fund K-12 public education. The legislature would then have to approve the education funding bill by day 45 of each legislative session.

This amendment would provide much needed stability to Alaska's education community by requiring legislators to act early. For far too long, Alaska's teachers and school administrators have been forced to operate under a cloud of uncertain funding when they should be free to focus on providing for a quality education for our students. It's time we put our kids first.

A focus on crime and SB 91 repeal

SB 32- Increases sentencing for repeat offenders and strengthens penalties for drug trafficking. The bill is currently in the Senate Finance Committee.

SB 33- Repeals pretrial service provisions of SB 91 and places the authority and discretion back in the hands of the courts to determine bail and release conditions. The bill passed out of the Senate State Affairs Committee, and is currently in the Senate Finance Committee.

SB 34- Reveals provisions of SB 91 that deal with sentencing caps on violations of probation and parole. The bill passed out of the Senate State Affairs Committee, and is currently in the Senate Finance Committee.

SB 35- Addresses Alaska's high rate of sexual assault and sexual abuse of minors. The bill is currently in the Senate Finance Committee.

Follow up to Turnagain Community Council

In response to some questions I received about the governor's proposed budget, here are the governor's proposed numbers for the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Corrections, and the Courts.

Department of Public Safety

- Training Academy (+\$500,000 Other)
- Federal Receipt Authority for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (+\$5,000,000 Federal)
- Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault - Federal Receipt for Victim of Crime Act (+\$4,000,000 Federal)
- Executive Branch 50% Travel Reduction (-\$103,000 GF)
- Align Village Public Safety Officer Funding (-\$3,000,000 GF)
- Reverse State Support for Civil Air Patrol (-\$302,000 GF)

Department of Corrections

- Video Court Hearing Institutional Staffing (+\$969,600 GF & +10 PFTs)
- Transition ~500 inmates to out of state facilities (-\$12,802,500 GF)
- Elimination of the Professional Conduct Unit (-\$1,199,700 GF & -5 PFTs)
- Close wing of the Wildwood Correctional Center (-\$6,000,000 GF & -46 PFTs)
- Executive Branch 50% Travel Reduction (-\$71,200 GF)

The Court System

- Reopening courts on Friday afternoon (+\$3,098,000 GF & +15 PFT)



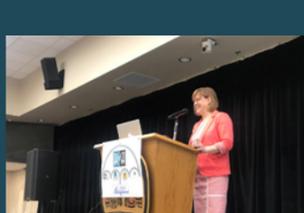
Helping out at a fundraiser:

Mia serves up Thanksgiving dishes at a fundraiser for the Alaska Food Bank with Senator Hughes and Representative Shaw.



Mia meets with constituents:

Here's Mia listening to neighbors at a town hall event at Turnagain Social club.



Mia delivers an address to principals and teachers:

Here's Mia speaking to a group of educators who have flown in to meet with legislators in Juneau.



Addressing suicide in Alaska:

Alaska currently has the second-highest suicide rate in the nation. Here, Mia discusses solutions and ways to prevent suicide with concerned Alaskans.



The next generation advocates for Alaska:

Mia meets with young people advocating for education funding in this year's budget.

Upcoming Community Councils



Sand Lake Community Council will meet next month on Monday, May 13th, 6:30pm, at Sand Lake Elementary.



Spenard Community Council will meet next month on Wednesday, May 1st, 6:30pm, at the Spenard Recreation Center.



Turnagain Community Council will meet on Thursday, May 2nd, 7:00pm, at West High in the Career and Technical Education Building, Room 152.

Stay Connected With Mia

Anchorage Office | 907-269-0117
Juneau Office | 907-465-4968

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Sen Mia Costello @MiaCostelloAK @MiaCostelloAK Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov