



# Alaska State Legislature House and Senate Democrats

[www.akdemocrats.org](http://www.akdemocrats.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • February 7, 2003**

**CONTACT: Jordan Marshall • (907) 465-3842, Toll-free (888) 465-4919, Cell: 321-3682  
Fax: 465-5125, [Jordan\\_Marshall@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Jordan_Marshall@legis.state.ak.us)**

---

## ***Alaska History Enjoys Wide Support in House Putting Alaskans First 2003***

JUNEAU – Representative Mary Kapsner (D-Bethel) today introduced House Bill 84, the “Alaska History” bill. The act would require the teaching of Alaska History in high schools.

“Every Alaskan should know more about our history,” said Kapsner. “Civic leaders, educators, and the business community have all said the time for Alaska History is now.”

Supporters of the bill, including 21 House co-sponsors, agree that students who graduate from Alaska’s schools should be grounded in our state’s history, diverse cultures, our Constitution and forms of governments. “We are talking about young people who will soon be voters, participants in our economy and emerging leaders,” said Kapsner. “It is vital that we prepare them to understand who we are and how we got to this point so we can make informed decisions about our future.”

HB 84 requires that Alaska's 56 school districts each adopt a semester long, high school-level Alaska History curriculum. HB 84 targets high school because older students will be able to tackle more complex issues such as the Permanent Fund and the push for statehood.

“There is a strong network of supporters who are committed to making this happen,” said Kapsner. “Prominent groups across the state have offered to assist in the development of new materials and have pledged to share resources with smaller districts.”

HB 84 is co-sponsored by Speaker of the House Pete Kott, and Representatives Bruce Weyhrauch, John Harris, Ethan Berkowitz, Sharon Cissna, Harry Crawford, Eric Croft, Richard Foster, Les Gara, David Guttenberg, Cheryl Heinze, Reggie Joule, Beth Kerttula, Albert Kookesh, Lesil McGuire, Kevin Meyer, Carl Morgan, Carl Moses, Gary Stevens, Jim Whitaker, and Bill Williams.

###

## ***Putting Alaskans First • Moving Alaska Forward 2003***

Sen. Bettye Davis, Sen. Johnny Ellis, Sen. Kim Elton, Sen. Lyman Hoffman, Sen. Hollis French, Sen. Gretchen Guess, Sen. Georgianna Lincoln, Sen. Donny Olson, Rep. Ethan Berkowitz, Rep. Sharon Cissna, Rep. Harry Crawford, Rep. Eric Croft, Rep. Les Gara, Rep. Max Gruenberg, Rep. David Guttenberg, Rep. Reggie Joule, Rep. Mary Kapsner, Rep. Beth Kerttula, Rep. Albert Kookesh, Rep. Carl Moses