



**YOUR HOUSE DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE OFFICE.**  
Representative Kerttula and Legislative Aides Karen Greeney (*left*) and Gretchen Keiser (*right*).

## Kerttula’s office receives community award

Representative Beth Kerttula and her staff were honored by the Community Schools Advisory Board with the 2000 Joe Miguel Outstanding Community Educator Award for their contribution to the community of Juneau.

“Beth and her office are always very professional and quick to respond to the needs of our community,” said Joyce Kitka, director of the Community Schools Program. “Their efforts truly make Juneau a better place to live.”

“It was very exciting for our office to receive this award,” said Representative Kerttula. “We work as a team with the community, and we are proud of the recognition of our commitment to education.”

## State employee contracts funded

It took a Special Session and a lot of long, hard work, but on Saturday, May 6, the new state employee contracts were funded by the Legislature. Given that the Alaska State Employees Association had approved a strike if the contracts were not ratified, and that the Legislature did not approve the contracts by the end of regular session, the pressure was on.

The initial debate surrounding the contracts was the source of funding. Luckily, Representatives Kerttula and Davies (D., Fairbanks) spotted a fundamental problem in one funding proposal that would have resulted in cuts to education funding.

“That was completely unacceptable,” said Representative Kerttula, who worked with other legislators to find different funding sources.

“Everyone in Alaska, whether in the public or private sector, deserves to make a decent living,” said Representative Kerttula. “We still have a small population, and we all depend on each other. If state employees are not treated fairly, we all suffer. Similarly, if the private sector can’t survive economically, we would all fail. I think the future of state employee contracts depends on the next Legislature taking positive action to come up with a truly workable fiscal plan that protects our economy for all Alas-

kans. I look forward to that challenge, and think the 2000 Special Session was a step in the right direction.”

*For more information, log onto <http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/ADMIN/labrel/bargaining.htm>*



**STANDING UP FOR WORKERS.**  
Representative Kerttula speaks on the importance of funding state employee contracts during House floor debate.

## KEEP IN TOUCH

**Representative Beth Kerttula**  
**Room 430 State Capitol**  
**Juneau, AK 99801-1182**

**Phone:** 465-4766  
**Fax:** 465-4748  
**Email:** [Representative\\_Beth\\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Beth_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us)

**Internet:** [www.akdemocrats.org/bios/kert.htm](http://www.akdemocrats.org/bios/kert.htm)

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## Representative

# Beth Kerttula

## Dear Neighbors:

It is an honor to represent you. The 21st Legislature had many challenges, and I used optimism, humor, and a tough skin as I worked on issues important to Juneau and all Alaska. Oil prices went from an all-time low to a record high. British Petroleum/Amoco and Atlantic Richfield announced a merger that would have drastically altered competition in Alaska’s oil patch. The federal government took over management of fisheries, and budget cuts threatened programs from health care to education.

On the positive side, a comprehensive funding source for the Power Cost Equalization program was enacted, and new state employee contracts were ratified and funded for their first year. After intense pressure from the Legislature’s special committee, citizen groups, and the Federal Trade Commission, the monopoly that the original BP/Amoco-ARCO merger would have created was stopped.

Here in Juneau we will see new UAS classrooms built, sewer and water improvements, road projects, and the start of a senior day facility.

As a member of the House State Affairs Committee, I succeeded in helping stop any capital move legislation.

Some days my humor was sorely tested, but overall I am optimistic about Alaska’s future and our ability to address the critical issues of our times. I laid the foundation for important legislation that addresses class size, cruise ship reporting, and Internet privacy. High public interest in these issues will continue until this legislation becomes reality.

Being a legislator involves more than simply issues and budgets. It’s also about helping people. My office assisted many constituents with everything from health care to student loans.

This newsletter provides an overview of the 21st Legislature and my efforts on your behalf. Because space is limited, I encourage you to visit my website at [www.akdemocrats.org/bios/kert.htm](http://www.akdemocrats.org/bios/kert.htm). I also welcome your phone calls, faxes, and emails. My staff and I are here to assist you. This is your office.

Thank you for your interest,

*Beth*

## Legislative efforts protect Alaska’s economy

A David and Goliath story. That’s how Rep. Kerttula describes the state’s interest in the BP/Amoco-ARCO merger.

“It took a tremendous effort on many different fronts to restructure this merger,” said Rep. Kerttula. “It is one of the most critical things to happen in Alaska during the last decade.”

According to Rep. Kerttula, the original merger would have reduced state revenues and given one company overwhelming power in Alaska.

In response to the proposed merger, the Legislature formed a Joint Special Committee on Mergers. With her background in oil and gas issues, Rep. Kerttula was appointed one of six legislators on the committee.

An important committee task was reviewing and analyzing BP/Amoco and ARCO’s confidential documents relating to the merger.

“These documents gave us great insight into the merger, and as Alaskans we saw things others might have missed,” said Rep.

Kerttula. “I worked closely with the committee’s attorneys and economists to develop our position, and our work was valuable to the FTC in its actions to oppose the merger.”



**PROTECTING ALASKA’S ECONOMY.** Representative Kerttula confers with Senate President Pearce and Senator Ellis during a legislative hearing on the BP/Amoco-ARCO merger.

According to Rep. Kerttula, the end result of all the citizen, federal agency, and legislative effort was a success story for Alaska.

“BP/Amoco had to divest all of ARCO Alaska’s holdings to another company—Phillips Petroleum, which has an historic presence in Alaska. Most importantly, a competitive mix of oil companies is maintained on the North Slope.”

The restructured merger also had a positive effect on oil industry employment in Alaska. Originally, BP planned to lay off 400 people. Recent news articles report that North Slope

job numbers will be maintained.

“It is exciting to see the impact the legislature and citizens groups had on the merger,” said Rep. Kerttula. “The special committee’s effort is one of the 21st Legislature’s primary accomplishments.”

# Representative Kerttula’s Bills

*Following are a few of the bills that Representative Kerttula sponsored or cosponsored during the 2000 Legislative session:*

**HB 270—Sexual Assault Exams** (This bill is now law.)  
Because it is wrong to charge victims of sexual assault for rape exams, Rep. Kerttula cosponsored HB 270. This bill will keep victims from being charged for rape exams.

**HB 29—Administrative Procedure Notices** (This bill is now law.)  
After seeing the deluge of paper in legislative offices, Rep. Kerttula introduced HB 291. House Bill 291 uses technology to streamline the government process. It changes the public notice procedures used by state agencies for adopting regulations by requiring agencies to provide each legislator a single notice of their proposed regulation via email rather than often multiple paper copies.

**HB 395—Pupil Teacher Ratio in Public Schools**  
With 30 children in a classroom, a teacher has very little time to spend with each child. In response to many constituents, Rep. Kerttula introduced this bill to establish a maximum class size in Alaska’s public schools. The bill would limit class size to 18 pupils to one teacher in grades K-3, 20 pupils to one teacher in grades 4-6, and 25 pupils to one teacher in grades 7-12.

**HB 273—Internet Privacy**  
Technological advances and business practices in the rapidly evolving electronic world have the potential for unprecedented access to Internet consumers’ personal information and their online usage and preferences. Building upon the Alaska Constitution’s strong foundation of Alaskans’ right to privacy, Kerttula sponsored HB 273, which would update our consumer protection laws to address Internet activity.



**STREAMLINING GOVERNMENT PROCESSES.**  
On June 1, 2000 Governor Tony Knowles signs HB 291, a bill sponsored by Representative Kerttula which simplifies agency notices to legislators.

**HB 184—PERS Benefits for Juvenile Institution Employees**  
Under this bill, juvenile detention and corrections employees would have the same retirement system as adult correctional institution employees. This bill would create equity between the two systems, and recognizes the danger and stress that juvenile detention employees face every day on the job.

*For information about the rest of Rep. Kerttula’s bills and other legislation, log on to [www.legis.state.ak.us/basis21.htm](http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis21.htm)*

## Kerttula fights for public’s right to know

Representative Kerttula took a leadership role in the Legislature’s response to the Royal Caribbean criminal prosecution and fines, air pollution violations, and the public’s concern with lack of information on cruiseship waste management.

“Alaskans deserve to know what’s being dumped in our water and discharged into our air,” said Rep. Kerttula.

Some of the legislation reviewed by the Legislature includes:

- Senate Bill 266 (Kerttula cosponsor) eliminates the use of toxic Tributyltin anti-fouling paint on the bottom of large marine vessels by January 1, 2001. This bill is now law.
- Senate Bill 273, now law, requires cruiseship operators to prove they have the financial ability to respond to a spill of the considerable volumes of fuel oil carried onboard.
- SCR 1 establishes a task force to examine the best way to achieve realistic oil spill response practices by cruise ships and other large marine vessels. The task force will report its recommendations to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Legislature by January 2001 (Rep. Kerttula is participating on this task force).

**“Alaskans deserve to know what’s being dumped in our water and discharged into our air.”**

**-Rep. Kerttula**

causing problems in coastal Alaska.  
“These issues are not going away,” said Rep. Kerttula. “This was just the beginning of the Legislature’s actions, and I expect continued activity next year.”  
For more information on cruise ships operating in Alaska’s waters, log onto the Department of Environmental Conservation’s website at [http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/ ENV.CONSERV/press/cruise/cruise.htm](http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/ENV.CONSERV/press/cruise/cruise.htm)

## 2001 Legislative budget funds Juneau projects

Following are Juneau’s FY 2001 projects that were included in the Legislature’s 2000 budget.

<b>School Facilities Replacements &amp; Renovations</b>		<b>Juneau Highway Projects</b>	
<i>State share of total cost (at 70 percent)</i>		Anka Street Intersection	\$1,050,000
Marie Drake Roof	\$599,000	Glacier Hwy: McNugget-Loop Road	
Harborview Elem. Gym/Roof	\$106,000	Safety Improvements & Paving	\$4,600,000
High School Heating/Ventilation	\$65,000	Main Street Transit Center	\$200,000
High School Aux. Gym Floor	\$109,000	Paratransit Van Upgrade	\$100,000
Gastineau Elem. Heating Coil	\$133,000	West Douglas Hwy Extension	\$1,660,000
Auke Bay Elem. Roof	\$653,000	Auke Bay Ferry Terminal	\$840,000
Floyd Dryden Gym Floor	\$108,000	Egan Drive-Salmon Creek Access	\$220,000
Floyd Dryden Middle School	\$3,629,000		
<b>UAS</b>		<b>CBJ Facilities</b>	
Deferred Maintenance	\$1,388,000	Deferred Building Maintenance	\$264,000
Egan Classroom Building	\$5,500,000	Essential Building Repairs	\$171,000
<b>Sewer and Water</b>		Underground Fuel Storage Tanks	\$76,000
North Douglas Sewer	\$2,095,500		
Lena Loop Reservoir	\$1,555,000	<b>Senior Services Day Facility</b>	
<b>Juneau Public Health Center</b>	\$131,600	<b>Planning and Design</b>	\$100,000
<b>State Capital Repairs</b>	\$334,600	<b>Cedar Park Building Security</b>	\$ 7,875

## Legislature takes a step in the right direction

Rep. Kerttula focused on education issues during her first term. Besides introducing HB 395 to limit class sizes, she was instrumental in securing funding for new UAS classrooms.

During the 2000 session, an additional \$6.2 million was approved to help Alaska’s students meet statewide educational standards.

The University of Alaska received an increase of nearly \$14 million that will go a long way toward meeting the University’s goals of retaining quality instructors, introducing innovative programs that match Alaska’s economy, and attracting more students.



**INVOLVING STUDENTS IN THE LEGISLATURE.**  
Rep. Kerttula gives JDHS high school student, Lael Harrison, a tour of the Capitol, during a job shadow program.

“While the extra funds help, there is more work to do for the education of Alaska’s youth,” said Rep. Kerttula.  
The Legislature approved \$181 million in school construction funds to begin to address the tremendous backlog of school projects statewide. While pleased with the funding commitment, Representative Kerttula notes that legislative action failed to follow the state’s priority lists and perpetuates some of the rural-urban inequities in the funding of school infrastructure.  
“When I visit Juneau’s classrooms, I see how talented and committed Alaskan teachers and students are,” said Rep. Kerttula. “Legislators must be equally committed to supporting education.”

## Diligence makes a difference

Often you have to look beyond the headlines to understand the work that really makes a difference in the legislative process. Through active and effective participation in the day-to-day committee meetings during the 21<sup>st</sup> Legislature, Rep. Kerttula used her experience and knowledge to work behind the scenes to positively impact legislation.

In her first session, Rep. Kerttula authored an amendment to House Bill 156 that increased the allowable portion of the Alaska Permanent Fund that could be invested in stocks. At the time, the Permanent Fund Corp. estimated that the fund’s value could increase as much as \$2 billion over 20 years because of Kerttula’s amendment which is now law. In late 1999, the Permanent Fund trustees raised the ceiling for stock investments from 48 to 53 percent, and recent fund reports show about 53 percent (unaudited) of the fund now invested in U.S. and foreign equities.

During the 2000 session, Rep. Kerttula helped stop two controversial bills in the House Judiciary Committee where she was a member. By showing strong opposition, Rep. Kerttula helped kill HB 329 that would have required women to delay a medical decision regarding a pregnancy while they were forced to receive often biased, anti-choice information.

Rep. Kerttula also participated in a subcommittee that took no action on SB 123, thus killing it. This bill would have placed dramatic limits on the awards a successful public interest litigant would receive for reasonable attorney fees.

Kerttula explains “I opposed this bill because it would have a chilling effect on citizens’ willingness to pursue legal action when they feel they have been wronged by a government agency.”  
These are examples of important actions that, while they don’t make headlines, make a difference.



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