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## LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD BASED ON THE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

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## Kelly R. Merrick

Alaska

Senator, SD-L (R)

[freedomindex.us/2064/](https://freedomindex.us/2064/)

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Lifetime  
Freedom  
Score

## 2025 AK Legislative Scorecard

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	\$/Year	Vote
1. <b>HB69 Government-school Funding</b> (Passed 11 to 9 on 4/11/2025). increases the state's base student allocation for public schools by an inflation-based amount tied to the Alaska consumer price index, plus an additional \$1,000.			-\$1,017.00	YES ✗
2. <b>SB95 Childcare Assistance and Grant</b> (Passed 16 to 3 on 5/5/2025). Modifies the state's childcare assistance program.			-\$22.52	YES ✗
3. <b>HJR11 Canada Partnership Resolution</b> (Passed 13 to 6 on 5/5/2025). Recognizes and honors the relationship between Alaska and Canada.				YES ✗
4. <b>SB53 State Operating Budget</b> (Passed 16 to 4 on 5/7/2025). The primary operating-budget bill for FY2026, authorizing approximately \$9.4 billion in total spending across all funds.			-\$34,746.00	YES ✗
5. <b>SB83 Forced Insurance Coverage</b> (Passed 14 to 6 on 5/7/2025). Would change Alaska's telehealth laws by requiring health insurers to cover certain services.				YES ✗
6. <b>SJR15 Pro-Medicaid Resolution</b> (Passed 14 to 6 on 5/19/2025). Called on Alaska's congressional delegation to oppose cuts to federal Medicaid spending.				YES ✗

Scorecard Votes: 0%

# Why do these votes matter?

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## 1. Government-school Funding

HB69 increases the state's base student allocation for public schools by an inflation-based amount tied to the Alaska consumer price index, plus an additional \$1,000, with further yearly increases in 2026 and 2027 that also include extra dollar boosts, and automatic inflation adjustments each year after 2028. It was designed to raise and then permanently index Alaska's per-student education funding.

The Alaska State Senate passed HB69 on April 11, 2025 by a vote of 11 to 9. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill expands government funding and control over education—an area that properly belongs to parents and families, not the state. By allocating additional taxpayer dollars to a government-run education system, the Legislature reinforces a monopoly that crowds out private schools and homeschooling. True educational freedom cannot be achieved through compulsory, state-funded schooling, but only when parents are free to direct their children's education without state interference or coerced public financing.

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## 2. Childcare Assistance and Grant

SB95 modifies the state's childcare assistance program by raising the income eligibility threshold to 105% of the state's median household income, introducing a sliding fee scale that caps family contributions at no more than 7% of monthly income, and requiring grant-receiving providers to reserve at least 15% of subsidized slots for assisted children. The bill also supports "high-quality providers" through grants, and encourages employer involvement via tax credits for childcare expenses.

The Alaska State Senate passed SB95 on May 5, 2025 by a vote of 16 to 3. We have assigned pluses to the nays because, rather than promoting personal responsibility and a limited government role in the economy, SB95 expands the state's childcare assistance program through taxpayer-funded subsidies, grants, and tax credits that prop up a specific industry. By raising the income eligibility threshold, capping family contributions, and requiring providers to reserve subsidized slots, the bill further expands government welfare and distorts the market. A truly free and constitutional system would allow the private sector to respond to childcare needs without state interference or redistribution schemes that pick winners and losers.

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## 3. Canada Partnership Resolution

HJR11 recognizes and honors the relationship between Alaska and Canada, emphasizing their shared economic, transportation, tourism, cultural, and security ties and urging continued strong cooperation between Alaska and Canada.

The Alaska State Senate passed HJR11 on May 5, 2025 by a vote of 13 to 6. We have assigned pluses to the nays because resolutions promoting closer ties with foreign governments can blur the lines of state and national sovereignty and encourage regional integration at the expense of constitutional government. Article I of the U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations and restricts states from entering into agreements with foreign powers without congressional consent. The United States should pursue an America First policy that protects national independence rather than advances cross-border political and economic integration.

## 4. State Operating Budget

SB53 is the primary operating-budget bill for FY2026, authorizing approximately \$9.4 billion in total spending across all funds—including the Unrestricted General Fund (UGF), federal receipts, and other state sources—for state government operations, loan programs, supplemental appropriations, and related items such as education, healthcare (including Medicaid), corrections, infrastructure, and a \$1,000 Permanent Fund Dividend. It creates significant structural deficits, drains state savings, and massive increases for K-12 education.

The Alaska State Senate passed SB53 on May 7, 2025 by a vote of 16 to 4. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this budget continues to fund programs that fall outside the proper role of government, especially in education. It also commits taxpayers to a level of spending that is fiscally irresponsible and unsustainable. Such appropriations expand government; undermine limited, constitutional government; and place a heavier burden on Alaskans.

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## 5. Forced Insurance Coverage

SB83 would change Alaska's telehealth laws by requiring health insurers to cover certain telehealth services and setting reimbursement rules for those services, including payment-rate standards.

The Alaska State Senate passed SB83 on May 7, 2025 by a vote of 14 to 6. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill expands government control over health insurance by mandating coverage for certain telehealth services and imposing reimbursement rules, including payment-rate standards. Rather than allowing competition and the free market to determine coverage and pricing, it gives the state greater power to regulate private insurance. Such interference increases bureaucracy, raises costs, and extends government into an area that lies outside of its proper role.

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## 6. Pro-Medicaid Resolution

SJR15 called on Alaska's congressional delegation to oppose cuts to federal Medicaid spending, warning that reductions would threaten healthcare access across the state, especially for low-income residents, seniors, people with disabilities, and rural communities that rely heavily on Medicaid-supported providers and services.

The Alaska State Senate passed SJR15 on May 19, 2025 by a vote of 14 to 6. We have assigned pluses to the nays because neither healthcare nor social welfare is the legitimate object of government. Medicaid, as with many other "entitlement programs," discriminatorily and unjustly provides "eligible" low-income persons, who have little or no tax liability, with government funds at the expense of other hard-working citizens. Alaska must reject the use of taxpayer dollars for this ever-expanding and unsustainable federal-state program that is not authorized under Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.