

*“Permission to Speak on a Woman’s Place is in the House.*

*As a matter of fact the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsberg stated ‘women belong in places where decisions are being made’.*

*I am excited to announce that the representative from east Anchorage and myself have restarted the Women’s Caucus. This is an incredible year for women leaders in Alaska. In fact, we have a female minority leader as well as a female presiding officer, in our body. By nature, women possess cooperativeness, compassion, empathy, humility, devotion, kindness, and being helpful, as personality traits. Those are great characteristics to bring people on a wide spectrum together to benefit all around us.*

*Permission to Read?*

*‘Leadership is not a person or a position, it is a complex moral relationship between people based on trust, obligation, commitment, emotion, and a shared vision of the good.’*

*When women find ways to work together, everyone wins. Our state faces serious challenges when it comes to sexual assault and domestic violence, among many other important issues. And what better way to find a path forward to solving these challenges than a group of female policy-makers discussing how we can support each other and all women in Alaska?*

*I ran for office to not only set an example for my daughter, but for my son, who benefits from a strong mother who teaches him compassion, empathy, humility, and cooperativeness. I can show him that it’s ok to make tough choices, and what it means to be a leader. Men have historically been perceived as leaders. And I want to remind our body that women have only had the right to vote for the last hundred years. Our society has come a long way, and I will continue to voice that as women, we have more power than we know. We can impact the lives of everyone around us, not just our spouses, children, siblings, and immediate family members. I want to thank all of my female colleagues for having the courage that you have, because this job is not easy, and it does not come without sacrifices, especially to those women who are mothers and have children still at home.*

*It’s my sincerest hope that over the next two years all of the women in this body will come together to find the common ground where we can benefit all Alaskans. It is up to us to set the example for ourselves, and for future generations. And to end with one of my favorite quotes: ‘Here’s to strong women: May we know them, may we be them, and may we raise them’ Thank you, madam speaker.”*

