

Women need help in business

The Associated Press

Anchorage — The state should "take the risk to help women establish themselves" in business, the head of the Alaska Women's Commission told a legislative committee Wednesday.

Katie Hurley, in testimony before the House Special Committee on State Loans, said the state should consider a direct small business loan program for businesswomen.

She said women frequently cannot qualify for small-business loans through private lending institutions and are not

well-served by current lending programs including programs offered by the federal Small Business Administration.

She said the state could justify a direct small business loan program to women the same as it does for veterans.

The committee took no position on the proposal. Chairman Rick Uehling said the hearing was held to focus attention on the small business loan programs now available and to "consider possible new programs aimed at small business."