



February 22, 2017

The Honorable Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Legislator

I am writing in strong support of HB 75 to establish Gun Violence Protective Orders in Alaska and commend your efforts to prevent future violence. In light of the tragic school shooting in Parkland, Florida and the rising number of shootings and suicides in our own state and throughout the country, I believe that we must do all we can to empower family members and others to know the signs of gun violence and then act to say something to save lives.

My name is Kristin Kniss. My reason for supporting this bill is simple. I am a mother. I care about our country. I do not want to see ANY innocent lives lost to a preventable act of violence. I MOST DEFINITELY do not want to lose a child to a school shooter. If the school shooting pattern in the US does not end, my children, not of school age yet, will not be attending Alaska public school system.

Since the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary and those that have followed, we have learned that the vast majority of mass shooters show signs of their intentions before becoming violent. That's why Sandy Hook Promise works within schools and community organizations, including in Alaska, to teach children and adults to know the signs of people who may be at risk of hurting themselves or others. By knowing the signs and acting, we can get others the help they need and save lives.

Gun Violence Protective Orders are a critical tool to preventing gun violence before it happens because they empower families to intervene when they see the signs of violent behavior and a person in crisis. GVPOs mirror the same, effective judicial process of domestic violence and civil protection orders. When there is documented evidence that a person is threatening to harm themselves or others, families and law enforcement can petition a court to temporarily suspend that person's access to firearms.

As the rates of mass shootings and suicides in this country continue to rise, GVPOs have proven to be effective at separating at risk individuals from their firearms and saving hundreds of lives.

In 1999, Connecticut became the first state in the country to pass a law granting law enforcement the clear legal authority to temporarily remove firearms from individuals when there is probable cause to believe they are at a significant risk of harm to self or others. A study on the effects of this law found that for every 10 or 11 guns seized through the restraining order, at least one suicide was prevented. Since Connecticut passed its law, states across the country have started adopting this important policy, including Indiana, California, and Washington.

GVPOs also create safer circumstances for at-risk individuals to seek treatment, counseling or other resources to help address the causes of the dangerous and threatening behaviors. Passage of HB 75 would help build a system of prevention and care that will help decrease the risk of suicide and violence for Alaskans and their families.

I am proud to support HB 75 and I urge its swift passage. Thank you for your commitment to keeping our communities safe and preventing gun violence before it happens.

Sincerely,

Kristin Kniss
2683 South Paddock Drive
Wasilla AK 99654
WalkerK2@mac.com



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Juneau, AK 99801

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It's true that "Guns don't kill...people do!" The problem is that there are too many young people feeling unloved and angry. It is simply not wise that guns are so available and easy to acquire. I am an elementary school teacher. We now have teachers feeding children, teaching good manners, tutoring and dealing with severe emotional problems with their students. It's simply unfair to carry guns now too.

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I am proud to support HB 75 and I urge its swift passage. Thank you for your commitment to keeping our communities safe and preventing gun violence before it happens.

Sincerely,

Gloria Slagle
PO BOX 16085
Two Rivers, AK 99716



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State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

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I have 2 young kids and 1 is in pre-school. I want to do everything possible to keep them safe during their school years. We must do something to start keeping our children safe while attending school. HB 75 is a start.

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I am proud to support HB 75 and I urge its swift passage. Thank you for your commitment to keeping our communities safe and preventing gun violence before it happens.

Sincerely,

John Macomber
33864 Tressler, Seward AK 99664
starrynight@gci.net



February 22, 2018

Representative Geran Tarr
The Honorable Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Geran Tarr:

I am writing in strong support of HB 75 to establish Gun Violence Protective Orders in Alaska and commend your efforts to prevent future violence. In light of the tragic school shooting in Parkland, Florida and the rising number of shootings and suicides in our own state and throughout the country, I believe that we must do all we can to empower family members and others to know the signs of gun violence and then act to say something to save lives.

My name is Katharine Glaser. I taught first and second grade in Seward, Alaska for ten years. I was horrified at the carnage committed on the young students of Sandy Hook Elementary., and saddened to see the scared and anxious faces of my students when they came to school after hearing about the shooting. I tried to comfort them, and allay their fears. Soon our school, along with many others, began practicing “Intruder Drills.” But the horrible school shootings continue to fill the news. We must take further action to prevent more tragedies.

Since the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary and those that have followed, we have learned that the vast majority of mass shooters show signs of their intentions before becoming violent. That's why Sandy Hook Promise works within schools and community organizations, including in Alaska, to teach children and adults to know the signs of people who may be at risk of hurting themselves or others. By knowing the signs and acting, we can get others the help they need and save lives.

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I am proud to support HB 75 and I urge its swift passage. Thank you for your commitment to keeping our communities safe and preventing gun violence before it happens.

Sincerely,
Katharine Glaser
34270 Lakestar Lane
Seward, Alaska 99664
glaser@seward.net



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State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Legislator

I am writing in strong support of HB 75 to establish Gun Violence Protective Orders in Alaska and commend your efforts to prevent future violence. In light of the tragic school shooting in Parkland, Florida and the rising number of shootings and suicides in our own state and throughout the country, I believe that we must do all we can to empower family members and others to know the signs of gun violence and then act to say something to save lives.

As an Alaskan resident, I urge all legislators to support this common-sense legislation. Please give your support to this bill and let's take a solid step forward in Alaska to help keep safe not just innocent lives; but, also our youth and young adults who are at risk to commit suicide in a desperate act of hopelessness. There are many steps to take, let's be proactive where we can and act on our commitment to public safety as a top priority. I am counting on you!

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I am proud to support HB 75 and I urge its swift passage. Thank you for your commitment to keeping our communities safe and preventing gun violence before it happens.

Sincerely,

Karen McBride
8981 Rendon Dr
Anchorage, AK 99507
mcbride_karen@hotmail.com