



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Anna Fairclough — House District 17

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 18, 2010
To: Representative Bob Lynn Chair
From: Representative Anna Fairclough
Re: HB 349 "An Act relating to the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council."

I am requesting a hearing for HB 349 "An Act relating to the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council" at your earliest convenience. I have attached relevant materials for your committee.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Anna L. Fairclough

Attachments:

- I. Sponsor Statement
- II. HB 349
- III. Backup Documentation



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Anna Fairclough – House District 17

House Bill 349

"An Act Statewide Suicide Prevention Council"

House Bill 349 allows the Suicide Prevention Council to participate in a meeting either in person or by teleconference. Suicide is a very serious public health concern in Alaska, particularly among young males and the Alaska native population. Extension of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council is important in curtailing this avoidable loss of life. The mission of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council is to advise the governor and the legislature on issues relating to suicide. In collaboration with communities, faith-based organizations, and public-private entities, the Council works to improve the health and wellness of Alaskans by reducing suicide and its effect on individuals and communities.

The council serves in an advisory capacity to the Legislature and governor with respect to what actions can and should be taken to improve health and wellness throughout the state by reducing suicide and its effect on individuals, families and communities; broaden the public's awareness of suicide and the risk factors related to suicide; enhance suicide prevention services and programs throughout the state; develop healthy communities through comprehensive, collaborative, community-based approaches; develop and implement a statewide suicide prevention plan; and strengthen existing and build new partnerships between public and private entities that will advance suicide prevention efforts in the state.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge your support on the passage of legislation.

HOUSE BILL NO. 349

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES FAIRCLOUGH, Gardner, Peggy Wilson

Introduced: 2/17/10

Referred: State Affairs

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1.** AS 44.29.340 is amended to read:

4 **Sec. 44.29.340. Meetings; quorum.** (a) The council may meet **and vote**, by
5 teleconference or otherwise, as often as considered necessary by the presiding officer
6 of the council.

7 (b) Seven voting members of the council **participating in a meeting in**
8 **person or by teleconference** constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and
9 the exercise of the powers and duties of the council.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

SUICIDE PREVENTION COUNCIL

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Date: February 19, 2010

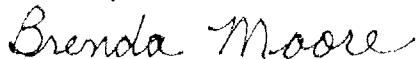
Dear Representative Anna Fairclough,

Re: HB 349

At our last meeting on January 13, the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council had reviewed its By-laws, which dually requires Council members to be present at meetings but also allows telephonic representation in order to be counted for a quorum. Due to the history of the Council attendance at meetings as indicated during the last legislative audit, it is the intent of the Council to allow for more flexibility in assembling a quorum. Therefore, we support amending the language in AS 4429.340 to allow a broader interpretation as it is written in the By-laws to include telephonic representation at our meetings.

We respectfully request that the Legislature agrees with the Council's desire to hold telephonic conferencing as an avenue to conduct the State's business as it relates to the important issue of suicide.

Sincerely,



Brenda Moore

Statewide Suicide Prevention Council, Chair