

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

VIOLENT CRIMES COMPENSATION BOARD

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The Honorable Senator Wielechowski
State Capitol, Room 101
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Senate Bill, 110 Human Trafficking/Sex Offenses

I write on behalf of the Violent Crimes Compensation Board in support of Senate Bill 110.

The proposed legislation strengthens existing state legislation by extending the definition of trafficking to include the movement or enticement of young women within the state of Alaska, not just across state lines.

As Board members, we have seen the terrible results of human trafficking on the lives of young women and their families. Very often these victims are young vulnerable native women who have left their villages and come to Anchorage, only to find themselves homeless and alone. These women are specifically targeted by these predators, given enticements in the form of clothing, housing and jewellery, and are then abused, beaten, sexually assaulted, deliberately addicted to controlled substances and alcohol and then prostituted out to make money for their abusers.

Over the course of the last few years, the Board has seen 23 claims stemming from federal human trafficking investigations, and has paid out over \$150,000 in compensation or assistance to trafficking victims. This compensation has been in the form of payment for mental health counseling, and for drug and alcohol treatment programs, as well as for medical expenses, and assistance in relocation to a safer environment. None of these 23 claims were for victims trafficked to Alaska. All were already Alaskan residents.

This proposed legislation closes the gap, and the Board strongly supports its passage

Respectfully submitted



Gerard Godfrey
Chair, Violent Crimes Compensation Board