



February 28, 2012

Senator Lesil McGuire
State Capitol Room 125
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Senator McGuire,

Thank you for introducing SB 212: "An Act relating to crimes of human trafficking; establishing the Human Trafficking Task Force to evaluate services available to victims of human trafficking; and relating to the recommendations and report of the task force."

Covenant House Alaska (CHA) has been working to prevent human trafficking of youth and protect victims once they disclose abuse for the last several years. Based on reports from youth and law enforcement, CHA knows that the frequency and severity of trafficking cases is increasing. It is often difficult for youth to disclose and report trafficking activities because of the emotional manipulation, coercion and fear "pimps" impart on victims. CHA knows that youth are being violently forced into sex trafficking and held against their will. Youth have also reported being slowly led into trafficking by men acting as boyfriends or providers, only to end up in the rough world of drug houses and prostitution. The end result is repeated and systematic physical abuse and rape.

CHA appreciates the introduction of SB 212 and the deliberate work of the Alaska State Legislature to investigate the nature of this crime, its victims and the perpetrators. The Task Force will shine light on a world that few understand or recognize, yet the world of sex trafficking is alive in our state.

Thank you for your continued and committed work to protect victims of all ages in Alaska. Your advocacy is appreciated!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deirdre A. Cronin".

Deirdre A. Cronin
Executive Director