



School of Social Work  
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February 4, 2013

Senator Johnny Ellis  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 7  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Ellis,

Thank you for introducing SB 36, creating a safety plan for vulnerable adults who are missing and at risk in Alaska. It is very timely given the rise in the number of vulnerable adults in Alaska. Other states have created a Silver Alert program that targets only senior citizens, whereas your bill extends the protection to all vulnerable adults.

Usually seniors are considered, but there are adults with physical and intellectual disabilities, persons with mental illness who may be distraught and suicidal, and soldiers and veterans who suffer from traumatic brain injuries who may become disoriented and in need of assistance.

The School of Social Work at the University of Alaska Anchorage graduates professional social workers who provide a variety of services to vulnerable populations throughout Alaska and this alert program will be of great benefit to them should one of their clients become at risk.

I strongly support this legislation and am hopeful that it will become law this Legislative session.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Patrick M. Cunningham'.

Patrick M. Cunningham, MSW, DSW  
Associate Professor of Social Work