



West Anchorage High School

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"Home of the Eagles"

To Whom It May Concern:

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It is without pause I write to encourage the passing of Erin's Law in the state of Alaska. As a teacher of English at West Anchorage High School, the programs and educational experiences supported through Standing Together Against Rape (STAR) have proven indispensable. My students have interacted with educators from STAR, Victim's for Justice, the FBI, Anchorage Police Department, and Alaska Youth Advocates, to name a few, in order to gain a better understanding and a closer realization of sexual assault awareness and prevention.

Providing a Comprehensive Health Education Program for schools, students, and teachers would continue to provide appropriate materials for all ages to hear. In addition, it enables educators, and those working with children ages 4-18, with the proper tools to alert and inform individuals of the high rates of sexual abuse in Alaska. Personally, I have invited educators to my room for seven years in order to prepare my students with the proper knowledge of awareness and prevention before they head off to college, the military, or the work place. The educators have also helped some of my students, who were victims, reach out and find proper support.

If teachers in Alaska were asked to attend professional development activities to strengthen their understanding in conveying this essential information in their classrooms, or simply being aware for observation purposes, the advantages would be limitless. Just in my seven years of working with these outside resources, I have had students practice using the Internet more safely, come forward about abusive households, find encouragement from trustworthy adults, and realize ways they can start preventing these crimes from continuing.

Alaska would be remiss to not pass Erin's Law. As educators, we agree to provide a well-rounded educational experience for all students. Personally, I aim to prepare my students for a life after graduation that is balanced, knowledgeable, and communicative. In order to keep doing so effectively, the participation in awareness and prevention programs, as outlined in Erin's Law, is the integral components in offering success. Finally, Erin's Law is essential in moving Alaska forward in the hopes to decrease the high statistics of sexual abuse and assault across the state. Please pass Erin's Law; our students are counting on it!

Sincerely,

Angela M.C. Mazur, M.A.Ed.
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English Instructor