

To: The Honorable Representative Steve Thompson

Dear Representative Thompson,

Alaskans with disabilities, especially those disabilities that cannot be easily recognized, deserve to be treated fairly and respectfully by police officers, corrections officers and parole/probation officers. Sometimes recognizing that a person has a disability can be challenging. Disability awareness training will help an officer recognize a disability and train them in ways to effectively and appropriately interact with people with non-apparent disabilities.

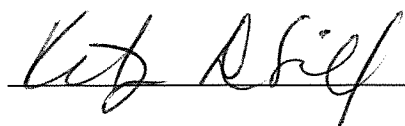
I support HB 77 because it requires a standardized disability awareness training for police officers, corrections officers, parole/probation officers and includes training for the public to be responsible for appropriately interacting with law enforcement. The bill also includes voluntary participation in an identification program. I feel that HB 77 will help to reduce potential conflicts between Alaskans with disabilities and public law enforcement and make these encounters safer for all parties involved.

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) protects individuals with disabilities from discrimination on the basis of disability in services, programs and activities provided by State and local government entities. Each time a law enforcement or corrections officer treats an individual with a disability inappropriately or unfairly, they are at risk of violating the ADA, placing the village, municipality or state in a precarious and possibly discriminatory situation.

I appreciate any support you can give to the passage of HB77, a bill whose goal is to erase law enforcement discrimination, intended or unintended, against people with disabilities.

I am grateful for your hard work and service to Alaska and support your efforts to help Alaskans with disabilities.

Sincerely,



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"Bunnie" B. D. Boykin

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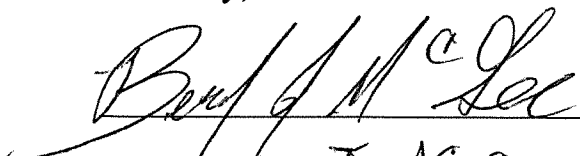
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Beverly J McGee
750-3455

3570 Dale Rd
99709

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1989 TBI Survivor
1991 - Present Literacy Council Tutor for TBI Survivors
& English as a Second Language
2005-2015 Denali Grade School Recess Teacher's Party Aid, &
First Student Management Traffic Guard.

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M.K. T.B.I. & A.T.B.I. could be you.

Most people never see it coming.

It's nice to be treated with respect no matter who you are