

March 7, 2016

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The Honorable Representative Charisse Millett
House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Mail Stop 3100, Room 204
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov

Dear Representative Millett,

Thank you for your sponsorship of House Bill No. 308, An Act relating to the limitation of liability for the inspection, installation, or adjustment of a child safety seat or in providing education regarding the installation or adjustment of a child safety seat. I am currently certified as a Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician in Alaska, and serve as a resource for parents and caregivers in my community.

Statewide data collected annually since 2008 reveals that in Alaska, there is an 85% car seat misuse rate among those seats that are inspected. This means that more than 4 out of 5 car seats are used incorrectly in some way! Although CPS inspection services are available from Ketchikan to Kodiak, Homer to Fairbanks, and other locations in between and throughout our vast state, my fellow CPS Technicians and I have more work to do. New parents are born every day, and car seats are confusing! The Alaska Child Passenger Safety Coalition's website, www.carseatsak.org, serves as a resource for all caregivers. However, hands-on assistance with the correct use and installation of child safety seats is vital. All too often, communities are without certified CPS Technicians due to fear of liability and no agency support of volunteer CPS activities.

I urge you and your staff to seek the full support of HB No. 308 from the entire membership of the Legislature during the current session, to enable HB No. 308 to become law. The benefit to rural communities will be greatest. Potential CPS Technicians who have no specific agency sponsorship for CPS roles may be more inclined to be trained and serve as CPS resources for their villages if they are not burdened with unnecessary liability risk. I believe that in supporting this bill you will impact the lives of Alaskan children, both now and for generations to come.

I look forward to my continued work as a Child Passenger Safety Technician. Again, I thank you for your sponsorship of HB No. 308, and for your advocacy on behalf of CPS Technicians statewide.

Sincerely in safety,

Andrea Konik, CPST