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Representative Geran Tarr
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol, Rm. 409
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: HCR 21

Dear Rep. Tarr:

Thank you for your work and your collaboration with other Alaskans to get one of the co-authors of the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study [ACES] to Juneau, to present seminars and community work sessions. His knowledge and experience with these issues were invaluable.

I have been a member of the Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition for over 8 years. The coalition has received accolades for its innovative work with suicide prevention. We have an astounding group of expert volunteers that are always looking to improve services to Alaskans. Several years ago, we became aware of ACES and its impact on greatly increasing the risk of suicide when individuals have experienced ACES. That is a large part of one of the grants the Coalition has, and JSPC has been working diligently to educate more and more Alaskans.

If we hope to break the cycle of abuse and neglect, we will need to enlist the help of medical professionals, counselors, school, religious leaders, and other leaders in our communities. The costs to society are huge and we simply cannot afford ignore the impact of ACES.

Accordingly, I strongly support this resolution. You have done an excellent job in laying forth the research that supports the need to begin to slow down and reverse ACES in Alaskan communities.

Very sincerely

Sam Trivette

HCR 21