



2/15/2016

The Honorable Peter Micciche  
Senator  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Room 514  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Micciche,

I am writing you to urge your support for Senate Bill 165 (SB165) to revise portions of Title 4, the Alaska Statutes regulating alcoholic beverages. Alaska Children's Trust (ACT) is the lead statewide organization focused on the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

One of our greatest assets is our children. We know that children who experience abuse, neglect and other traumas are more likely to have poor school performance, abuse substances, and end up incarcerated, among other issues. The majority of Alaska's child abuse and neglect cases involve Alcohol.

The changes to Title 4 in SB165, specifically the changes to Minor Consuming Alcohol (MCA) and Minor on Premises, will have significant benefits for Alaska's youth and for the criminal justice system. These changes would reduce and streamline penalties for Minor on Licensed Premises (AS 04.16.049) and Minor Consuming Alcohol (AS 04.16.050), to promote consistent enforcement of these laws while ensuring that underage youth are not criminalized for one mistake or punished for an underlying trauma. Furthermore, in the last five years, over 75% of Title 4 related charges were MCAs, and the vast majority of youth do not return to court with a second charge.

ACT strongly urges you to support the changes to SB165. These changes would strengthen Alaska's criminal justice system and positively impact Alaskan youth by not cutting them off from resilience factors and treating them with trauma-informed understanding. SB165 is a positive step towards bringing trauma-informed practices to our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Storrs", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Trevor Storrs  
Executive Director

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