

June 10, 2015

Co-Chair MacKinnon, Co-Chair Kelly,
and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I understand that a lot of effort went into creating the SCS for CSHB 44(FIN), and I very much appreciate some of the changes that came in it. But I implore you to reconsider the original version of HB44 which passed the House on April 20, 2015, not the SCS for CSHB 44(FIN).

The sole purpose of HB44, which passed the House on a non-partisan, clear majority 34-6 vote, is to make Alaska's children more safe by providing them age-appropriate education on sexual abuse and assault, dating violence and abuse, and prevention efforts, throughout their K-12 school years, and allowing each school district to create its own curricula to accomplish that as best they see fit.

There is no "sole purpose" of SCS CSHB 44(FIN). It includes secondary school graduation requirements; provides for "parental review" of student surveys, which I see has a HUGE detriment to the State of Alaska's successful ability to gain insightful, accurate information from students through the Youth Risk Behavior Survey; and adds another layer of bureaucracy with an Alaska Safe Children's Task Force. From my perspective, this SCS is intended to make the legislation more complicated and to provide a lot more "hooks" for Senators to hang the "I didn't vote for the bill because...." on.

Please do not do that. Please help protect Alaska's kids from sexual abuse and violence. Please pass HB44 as it was passed by the House, and allow the Senate to vote it up or down on the Senate floor.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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