

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 310
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576
PHONE (907) 842-5257

April 9, 2015

Tribal Councils
Served by BBNA:

Aleknagik

Chignik Bay

Chignik Lagoon

Chignik Lake

Clarks Point

Curyung

Egegik

Ekuk

Ekwok

Igiugig

Iliamna

Ivanof Bay

Kanatak

King Salmon

Kokhanok

Koliganek

Levelock

Manokotak

Naknek

New Stuyahok

Newhalen

Nondalton

Pedro Bay

Perryville

Pilot Point

Port Heiden

Portage Creek

South Naknek

Togiak

Twin Hills

Ugashik

Dear Editor:

It's sad that Alaska's rate of child abuse ranks among the highest in the nation. It seems higher in rural Alaska and remote places because we know each other. And it's no different in Bristol Bay.

We live in small communities and see cuts and bruises on children and grandchildren. We rarely ask what caused them. Cuts heal and bruises fade, but emotional scars are invisible and last a lifetime.

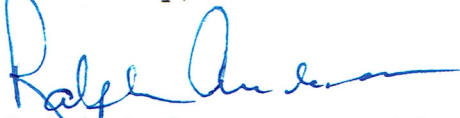
We should never get used to child abuse or tolerate it. It shouldn't ever become so normal that we first cringe then shrug it off and go on with our lives.

A few years ago, more than 50 hearings were held in our 31 communities developing the Bristol Bay Vision proclaiming our unity. Countless people said the foundation of their lives is strong, safe, and healthy families. I imagine people across the State feel the same way. Every child deserves to feel safe in their communities, in their homes, and with their friends and families.

Thanks to Rep. Geran Tarr and many co-sponsors of HCR7, April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Friday, April 10, 2015 is "Go Blue Friday" to raise awareness of child abuse.

So let's join together and wear blue on Friday, April 10. Let's spend some time this month on finding out about prevention and prevention activities. Let's do our part to raise awareness and help to end child abuse.

Sincerely,



Ralph Andersen, President & CEO
BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION