



February 23, 2017

The Honorable Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Legislator

I am writing in strong support of HB 75 to establish Gun Violence Protective Orders in Alaska and commend your efforts to prevent future violence. In light of the tragic school shooting in Parkland, Florida and the rising number of shootings and suicides in our own state and throughout the country, I believe that we must do all we can to empower family members and others to know the signs of gun violence and then act to say something to save lives.

As a university student and resident of Alaska, I believe it is my duty to be informed and speak up when the lives of others could be in danger. It is the duty of our lawmakers to pass legislation that protects these lives. It is heartbreaking to learn that some, if not most, of these gun-related tragedies could have been prevented if the proper laws were in place. There are ways to reduce gun violence while respecting our Constitutional rights. That is why I stand with Sandy Hook Promise; there are solutions that protect us all.

Since the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary and those that have followed, we have learned that the vast majority of mass shooters show signs of their intentions before becoming violent. That's why Sandy Hook Promise works within schools and community organizations, including in Alaska, to teach children and adults to know the signs of people who may be at risk of hurting themselves or others. By knowing the signs and acting, we can get others the help they need and save lives.

Gun Violence Protective Orders are a critical tool to preventing gun violence before it happens because they empower families to intervene when they see the signs of violent behavior and a person in crisis. GVPOs mirror the same, effective judicial process of domestic violence and civil protection orders. When there is documented evidence that a person is threatening to harm themselves or others, families and law enforcement can petition a court to temporarily suspend that person's access to firearms.

As the rates of mass shootings and suicides in this country continue to rise, GVPOs have proven to be effective at separating at risk individuals from their firearms and saving hundreds of lives.

In 1999, Connecticut became the first state in the country to pass a law granting law enforcement the clear legal authority to temporarily remove firearms from individuals when there is probable cause to believe they are at a significant risk of harm to self or others. A study on the effects of this law found that for every 10 or 11 guns seized through the restraining order, at least one suicide was prevented. Since Connecticut passed its law, states for across the country have started adopting this important policy, including Indiana, California, and Washington.

GVPOs also create safer circumstances for at-risk individuals to seek treatment, counseling or other resources to help address the causes of the dangerous and threatening behaviors. Passage of HB 75 would help build a system of prevention and care that will help decrease the risk of suicide and violence for Alaskans and their families.

I am proud to support HB 75 and I urge its swift passage. Thank you for your commitment to keeping our communities safe and preventing gun violence before it happens.

Sincerely,

Sarai Etheridge
3610 Peterkin Avenue Apt B.
Anchorage, AK 99508
saraietheridge@hotmail.com



February 22, 2018

The Honorable Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Legislator

I am writing in strong support of HB 75 to establish Gun Violence Protective Orders in Alaska and commend your efforts to prevent future violence. In light of the tragic school shooting in Parkland, Florida and the rising number of shootings and suicides in our own state and throughout the country, I believe that we must do all we can to empower family members and others to know the signs of gun violence and then act to say something to save lives.

I am a retired elementary school counselor who worked in schools throughout Alaska from 1983-2016. I am heartsick, once again, that 17 students lost their lives as the result of a school shooting. We can and must do more to prevent this senseless killing. I implore you to act now on HB 75. THE TIME IS NOW.

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I am proud to support HB 75 and I urge its swift passage. Thank you for your commitment to keeping our communities safe and preventing gun violence before it happens.

Sincerely,

Annie Caulfield
15205 Point Louisa Road, Juneau, Alaska, 99801
anni.caulfield@gmail.com



February 23, 2017

Representative Geran Tarr
The Honorable Alaska State Legislature
Room 126 Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Tarr,

I am writing in strong support of HB 75 to establish Gun Violence Protective Orders in Alaska and commend your efforts to prevent future violence. In light of the tragic school shooting in Parkland, Florida and the rising number of shootings and suicides in our own state and throughout the country, I believe that we must do all we can to empower family members and others to know the signs of gun violence and then act to say something to save lives.

As a mother of two young children, it terrifies me to know that they might be victim of a shooting at school, a place that should be a safe and enriching environment. My kindergartener has already asked what they are preparing for during their lockdown drills, and it breaks my heart to explain the reason to him.

Since the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary and those that have followed, we have learned that the vast majority of mass shooters show signs of their intentions before becoming violent. That's why Sandy Hook Promise works within schools and community organizations, including in Alaska, to teach children and adults to know the signs of people who may be at risk of hurting themselves or others. By knowing the signs and acting, we can get others the help they need and save lives.

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I am proud to support HB 75 and I urge its swift passage. Thank you for your commitment to keeping our communities safe and preventing gun violence before it happens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jen Collins', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jennifer Collins
1736 Amherst Ct
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
jenklugh@gmail.com