

Seth Beaver

From: Chris Dankmeyer <cdank40@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 11:29 AM
To: Seth Beaver
Subject: SB 101 Letter of Support
Attachments: SB 101 LoS 2_24_20.pdf

Dear Honorable Senators and Representatives,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 101 "An Act establishing March 12 as Ashley Johnson-Barr Day", sponsored by Senators Olson, Giessel, Costello, Bishop, Micciche, Stevens, Kawasaki, Wielechowski, Kiehl, Birch, Coghill, and Gray-Jackson.

All Alaskans struggled through the senseless and tragic loss of 10 year old Ashely Johnson-Barr. Throughout all the local, state and federal response at that time; the local search parties full of volunteers; the candle light vigils here and across the state; we all mourned together and witnessed an outpouring of love and support to the Johnson-Barr family. Before our eyes we saw the color purple, Ashley's favorite color, gain meaning and become a symbol of strength that we could all wear to show our support to the Johnson-Barr family. In our state we should not and we must not tolerate the high rates of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, the high rates of domestic violence and sexual assaults; or any violent crimes committed against children.

As Senator Olson suggests, establishing Ashley Johnson-Barr Day brings awareness surrounding violent crimes committed against children and highlights that individuals hold a moral responsibility to make sure Alaska's children are protected.

I believe the State has a responsibility to confront these issues with an annual statewide reminder, to bring all Alaskans together where we can collectively say "enough is enough", we educate ourselves about preventing violent crimes against children, and we honor Ashley and show our support of ALL children by wearing the color purple.

I support Senate Bill 101 and urge the Committee to pass "An Act establishing March 12 as Ashley Johnson-Barr Day".

Chris Dankmeyer