



March 5, 2020

Dear Representative Fields,

On January 24, 2020, the Governor transmitted a bill related to sex trafficking and human trafficking. SB 165 creates a process for restructuring the current human and sex trafficking statutes to better address the realities these crimes to better protect the victims.

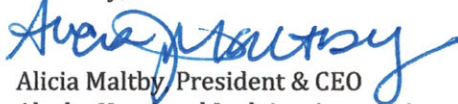
The current statutes have been far too lax in the prosecution of the Patrons and or Traffickers. In most cases, punishing the victim with charges and the perpetrators are going free. This leaves victims feeling more vulnerable and unable to break the cycle of abuse with their Trafficker. This Legislation will allow for these victims to have a conviction vacated, allowing them to heal and make a fresh start.

This is the 2nd fastest growing crime in our state and I believe that we have a responsibility to protect the women and children of this great state by taking a stand and establishing a baseline for prosecution. All "Patrons and Traffickers" will be required to register as a sex offender, this will hopefully allow for them to no longer fly under the radar of prosecution and make the public aware of their heinous crimes.

The Alaska Hotel and Lodging Association is working hard with industry to train and educate our employees to look for the signs and symptoms of Human and Sex Trafficking. Our hope is that this empowers people that see something to say something; preventing an act of Trafficking before it happens. We have a responsibility to our community and our businesses are ready and willing to take a stand against this insidious crime.

I urge you to support SB 165 to help combat Human and Sex Trafficking in Alaska. If we tighten regulations, we can more adequately work to protect the vulnerable members of our state. Protecting them not only from the perpetrators but from prosecution for crimes that they did not commit freely, it is not a victimless crime. I encourage you to speak to industry and allow us to help move this Legislation forward.

Sincerely,


Alicia Maltby, President & CEO
Alaska Hotel and Lodging Association