



ANCHORAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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MAYOR

Suzanne LaFrance

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Sean Case

February 9, 2026

Representatives Bynum, Fields, Galvin, Gray, Himschoot, Jimmie, Josephson, Kopp, Mina, D. Nelson, Schrage, Story, Tomaszewski, and Vance

RE: Support for House Bill 101

Dear Representatives Bynum, Fields, Galvin, Gray, Himschoot, Jimmie, Josephson, Kopp, Mina, D. Nelson, Schrage, Story, Tomaszewski, and Vance,

On behalf of the Anchorage Police Department, I express our strong support for House Bill 101. This legislation strengthens protections for Alaska's youth by aligning our criminal statutes with the realities of adolescent development and the responsibility of adults to safeguard minors from exploitation and harm.

As law enforcement officers, we see the impact of sexual abuse, coercion, and exploitation on young people and families. HB 101 strengthens Alaska's legal framework by raising the age threshold for certain sexual offenses from 16 to 18 years old. This change reflects well-established research showing that adolescents remain vulnerable to manipulation and coercion due to ongoing brain development affecting judgement, impulse control, and decision-making. HB 101 acknowledges these vulnerabilities and ensures that the law provides appropriate protection for young people who are not yet equipped to navigate adult relationships or consent to sexual activity with adults.

Under current law, an adult can legally engage in sexual activity with a 16- or 17-year-old based on purported consent, despite clear power imbalances. HB 101 corrects this flaw by establishing that minors under 18 cannot legally consent to sexual activity with adults, closing a loophole that offenders often exploit.

Protecting Alaska's youth is both a moral obligation and a public safety priority. HB 101 provides law enforcement and prosecutors with clearer authority to intervene, protect minors and hold offenders accountable.

Thank you for sponsoring this important legislation and for your commitment to safeguarding Alaska's youth. The Anchorage Police Department fully supports HB 101 and urges its swift passage.

Sincerely,

Sean Case

Sean Case

Chief of Police