

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sen. Donny Olson  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 4:22 PM  
**To:** Liz Harpold; Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: SB 206 Secure Storage Fund

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Laura Fleming <laura.fleming06@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 2:22 PM  
**To:** Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kelly Merrick <Sen.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>; Sen. James Kaufman <Sen.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Cronk <Sen.Mike.Cronk@akleg.gov>; Sen. Löki Tobin <Sen.Loki.Tobin@akleg.gov>; Senate Finance Committee <Finance.Committee@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** SB 206 Secure Storage Fund

> Thank you for holding a hearing on SB 206, relating to secure storage of firearms and establishing a secure storage fund. I urge you to pass it our of committee with a favorable recommendation, and I look forward to the day when its provisions are enacted into law, for it will surely reduce the number of deaths by firearm in Alaska. A terrible price is being paid in terms of lives lost, particularly young people's lives. Firearms are the leading cause of death for Alaska children and teens.

>

> Please enact this measure to educate the public and parents about the importance of secure firearm storage, and reduce deaths by suicide. Alaska has the country's third highest rate of suicide. Alaska has a gun suicide rate of more than twice the national average. It doesn't have to be this way. We can do better. You have the power to make it happen. Thank you for considering my testimony. Please include it in the written record of testimony on this measure.

> Laura Fleming, Juneau, Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Cindi Lagoudakis <trembladakis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 11:49 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB206

This is an issue that has affected my family:

- Public health data shows that the risk of suicide by gun is high for Alaska's youth. Guns are the leading cause of death of Alaska's children and teens. Alaska has the third highest rate of gun suicide in the US – a rate more than double the national average.
  - Alaska's 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that nearly a quarter of high school students (22.6%) in Alaska had seriously considered suicide in the past year. Among these students who had considered suicide, 58.6% said they could access a loaded gun.
  - SB 206 will save lives by making it more difficult for youth to access a loaded gun – providing **time** between suicidal thought and action. Suicide attempts using a gun are fatal nine times out of 10. Research shows that more than 90% of people who survive a first suicide attempt do not go on to die by suicide in the future. But, if their first attempt is with a gun, they do not usually get the benefit of that second chance at life.
  - Alaska's Statewide Suicide Prevention Plan for 2023-2027 (Goal #3) prioritizes reducing access to lethal means, including guns, during times of crisis. SB 206 will implement this state-approved plan.
- SB 206 is supported by statewide organizations, including the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Alaska Chapter; Association of Alaska School Boards, Alaska League of Women Voters, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and Alaska Behavioral Health Association.

Please support this bill. Thank you,

Cynthia Lagoudakis

Petersburg, AK

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Lei B <lxb312@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 1:56 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Löki Tobin  
**Cc:** Sen. Cathy Giessel  
**Subject:** IN SUPPORT of Senate Bill 206

Respected Committee Members and Senators,

I'm a Licensed Clinical Social Worker living and working as a mental health counselor in Anchorage. I am a constituent in Senator Giessel's district. I am writing to urge you to support SB 206, as I believe it is one step in right direction to helping us reduce and eventually eliminate suicides.

Studies show that **delay** between suicidal thought and action of self harm has **a positive impact on reducing suicide attempts**. Research also shows that more than 90% of people who survive a first suicide attempt do not go on to die by suicide in the future. Let's please do everything we can do to give them a chance!

I work with children and families every day to help them overcome obstacles and mental health issues, but the more we do systemically, the greater positive impact on our community.

Thank you for supporting SB 206.

Sincerely,

Lejla Berberovic, LCSW

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Laura Fleming <laura.fleming06@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 2:22 PM  
**To:** Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Löki Tobin; Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 206 Secure Storage Fund

> Thank you for holding a hearing on SB 206, relating to secure storage of firearms and establishing a secure storage fund. I urge you to pass it out of committee with a favorable recommendation, and I look forward to the day when its provisions are enacted into law, for it will surely reduce the number of deaths by firearm in Alaska. A terrible price is being paid in terms of lives lost, particularly young people's lives. Firearms are the leading cause of death for Alaska children and teens.

>

> Please enact this measure to educate the public and parents about the importance of secure firearm storage, and reduce deaths by suicide. Alaska has the country's third highest rate of suicide. Alaska has a gun suicide rate of more than twice the national average. It doesn't have to be this way. We can do better. You have the power to make it happen. Thank you for considering my testimony. Please include it in the written record of testimony on this measure.

> Laura Fleming, Juneau, Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Natalie Watson <kwan.myong@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 2:27 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Löki Tobin  
**Subject:** In strong support of SB 206

Dear Senators, I am writing in strong support of SB 206. I know that statewide, public health data shows that guns are the leading cause of death of Alaska's children and teens. Alaska has the third highest rate of gun suicide in the US – a rate more than double the national average. I personally know more than one young person who impulsively committed suicide with a gun.

SB 206 will save lives by making it more difficult for youth to access a loaded gun – providing **time** between suicidal thought and action. Suicide attempts using a gun are fatal nine times out of 10. Research shows that more than 90% of people who survive a first suicide attempt do not go on to die by suicide in the future. But, if their first attempt is with a gun, they do not usually get the benefit of that second chance at life.

Alaska's Statewide Suicide Prevention Plan for 2023-2027 (Goal #3) prioritizes reducing access to lethal means, including guns, during times of crisis. SB 206 will implement this state-approved plan.

Our youth are literally the future of Alaska. Please make protecting them your highest priority!

Sincerely yours,

Natalie Watson, Juneau Alaska

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Joyanne Bloom <joyanneb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 3:15 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support SB206

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

With a click of a button, generic emails are pouring in from all over the country asking you not to mess with second amendment rights. Take it from this Alaskan grandma, SB206 is no way an anti-gun bill. It's a way to keep our kids safe by providing free locks and safes via our schools to families who may have a child going through a rough time. Let's save kids' lives. Please support SB206.

Thanks for listening with an open mind and an open heart,  
Joyanne Bloom

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Joyanne Bloom  
883 Basin Road  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

(907) 723-3604

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Barbara Sheinberg <barbarasheinberg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 10:01 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support SB 206

Senators,

I am writing to urge you to support SB 206. I've attended PTAs to make gun safety locks available and parents are very supportive and happy to get these. It is totally about children's safety, and these gun owner's get that. Please help make the locks available through passing this bill. As a reminder:

- Public health data shows that the risk of suicide by gun is high for Alaska's youth. Guns are the leading cause of death of Alaska's children and teens. Alaska has the third highest rate of gun suicide in the US – a rate more than double the national average.
- Alaska's 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that nearly a quarter of high school students (22.6%) in Alaska had seriously considered suicide in the past year. Among these students who had considered suicide, 58.6% said they could access a loaded gun.
- SB 206 will save lives by making it more difficult for youth to access a loaded gun – providing **time** between suicidal thought and action. Suicide attempts using a gun are fatal nine times out of 10. Research shows that more than 90% of people who survive a first suicide attempt do not go on to die by suicide in the future. But, if their first attempt is with a gun, they do not usually get the benefit of that second chance at life.
- Alaska's Statewide Suicide Prevention Plan for 2023-2027 (Goal #3) prioritizes reducing access to lethal means, including guns, during times of crisis. SB 206 will implement this state-approved plan.

— SB 206 is supported by statewide organizations, including the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Alaska Chapter; Association of Alaska School Boards, Alaska League of Women Voters, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and Alaska Behavioral Health Association.

Thank you,  
Barbara Sheinberg  
Juneau, Alaska

Sent from my mobile phone, please excuse typos.

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Emily Kane <dremilykane@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 10:01 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Löki Tobin  
**Subject:** SB 206

Please pass this important bill  
It will prevent tragic deaths and injuries.

**Emily Kane**  
**Juneau**

[www.DrEmilyKane.com](http://www.DrEmilyKane.com)

*My primary care practice is closed.*

[Fullscript.com](http://Fullscript.com)

**Be well!**

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** odetteedgar@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 10:11 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Löki Tobin  
**Subject:** Support for SB 206 - Firearm Safe Storage Grant Fund

Dear Senate Finance Committee members,

I urge you to support SB 206. I am a Juneau resident, and Jesse Kiehl is my senator.

SB 206 creates a grant fund for schools to provide gun locks and gun safes to families whose child might be a suicide risk. Teenage suicide by gun is very high in Alaska. This bill could help families keep their child from accessing unlocked and loaded guns. March is an especially dangerous time for students who have considered suicide. Locking up a gun can make the difference between a crisis that blows over or a tragic loss of life.

Thank you for your consideration.

Odette Edgar  
Juneau, Alaska

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Ann Gifford <agifford83@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 10:28 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Löki Tobin  
**Cc:** Rep. Sara Hannan  
**Subject:** Please support SB 206 firearm safe storage grant fund

Dear Senators, I am a constituent of Senator Kiehl's. Please vote to fund the safe storage grant fund provided for in SB 206. Appropriating some money to purchase and distribute firearm locking devices through schools and gun safety programs is one of the most low cost, effective measures you could take to help prevent youth deaths by firearm. Guns are the leading cause of death for Alaska's children and teens. We need to do everything we can to lower that statistic. Please take this simple step. Sincerely,  
Ann Gifford

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Ann Gifford  
Juneau, Alaska  
(907) 723-7128

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Karla Hart <karlahart@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 10:32 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Rep. Andi Story  
**Subject:** SB 206 Gun Sense law - support

Please support SB 206. Growing up and living in Alaska, I have personally known boys who have died by suicide, and by accidental weapon discharges during “play” with firearms they shouldn’t have had access to.

Every life we can save is worth the minimal amount this legislation requires. If you pass it, you may not even know the lives you save. That doesn’t mean it isn’t worth passing this.

- SB 206 will save lives by making it more difficult for youth to access a loaded gun – providing **time** between suicidal thought and action. Suicide attempts using a gun are fatal nine times out of 10. Research shows that more than 90% of people who survive a first suicide attempt do not go on to die by suicide in the future. But, if their first attempt is with a gun, they do not usually get the benefit of that second chance at life.
- Alaska’s Statewide Suicide Prevention Plan for 2023-2027 (Goal #3) prioritizes reducing access to lethal means, including guns, during times of crisis. SB 206 will implement this state-approved plan.

Regards,

Karla Hart  
Juneau

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Therese Lewandowski <thereselew@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 11:31 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Löki Tobin  
**Cc:** Sen. Gary Stevens; Rep. Sarah Vance  
**Subject:** SB 206 Free from Harm

Senators,

This bill is about prevention.

I don't have guns so I don't understand the sometimes angry righteous ownership I hear from gun owners. My response is: **I have a right to be free from harm.**

My older brother is a Vietnam veteran. When first meeting my family, my husband asked him if he hunted. My brother responded that "if I had a gun I'd kill someone." That came from the hurt, resentment and rage he carried from being in war.

SB 206 is about children though, not adults. My brother's response is just an example of how dangerous guns in homes are. But, if children were educated, if their families were educated about gun safety, injury or death can be avoided.

I find it ironic that most states have hunter safety education requirements. In Alaska all hunters also must successfully complete a Basic Hunter Education course before hunting *in certain areas*.

I understand gun locks are provided at these courses. As you see though, this course is only in certain areas. And, there are many families here that do not hunt.

Would it not be a good thing then to spread out the gun safety education and provide the institutes of education with the means to provide safe gun locks with safe gun education for free to families? What harm would that cause a gun owner worried about their gun right to own?

The other part of this bill would require school personnel to go more miles in reporting bullying and harassing which studies show lead to withdrawal, self-harm and even suicide. SB 206 would require such behaviors be reported to a child advocacy center. I say yes.

Along the lines of suicide prevention there is a bill gaining traction in the Senate. SB 196 creates a dedicated Behavioral Health Crisis Services fund to support 988. I recently heard these crisis lines are being underfunded. Please support this as well if it comes to one of the committees you sit on.

Please, here SB 206

Therese Lewandowski

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Callie Conerton <callieconerton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 9:59 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Löki Tobin; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Andi Story  
**Subject:** Support for SB206

Hello,

My name is Callie Conerton and I am a teacher here in Juneau.

When I was in high school - one of my friends brother was shot. It was at a friends house and they were playing around. This did not have to happen.

No one under the age of 18 should have access to a gun without an adult being present. We need to have the children of Alaska be safe.

In the schools - we are seeing bullying online, students not willing to talk about their emotions, and not knowing how to get help if they are feeling depressed.

We need to make it safer for Alaskan kids by helping them have less access to loaded firearms.

Thank you and I hope you vote in support of SB 206.

Callie Conerton

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Bridget Smith <bridgetannsmith49@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 9:46 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Löki Tobin  
**Subject:** Support of SB 206

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Along with my husband, Jim Asper, I strongly support SB 206. We know several children in Juneau (and I suspect there are others that we don't know) who have died from gun violence. I was sad to learn that Alaska has the third highest rate of gun suicide in the US. Children's access to loaded guns is a nightmarish situation and needs to be remedied by public awareness of the danger and the access to free secure gun storage devices. Personally, we are not against gun ownership at all; instead we support responsible gun ownership.

I am a member of the League of Women Voters and as a statewide organization, they support this bill.

Thank you,

Bridget Smith and Jim Asper  
Juneau, Alaska  
bridgetannsmith49@gmail.com  
Cell (907) 209-0025

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** H. Brandon <hbrandon99801@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 9:11 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Löki Tobin  
**Subject:** Please support SB 206

Dear State Senators;

I support SB 206 which would establish a Firearm Safe Storage Grant Fund, which Alaska's school districts can use to give free secure gun storage devices to families to protect youth in crisis.

Is there any reason at all to not support the proper storage of guns?

I can't think of a single reason to not help schools support parents in protecting children.

I am a parent of a middle school and high school kids, and we have guns in our home used for hunting and bear protection. Our family keeps our guns in a locked safe, but not all families can afford a large safe and/or do not have space for it their home. Devices, such as cable locks, that secure guns from inappropriate use (such as suicide) are cheap and easy to provide to families. Please consider the public service as described and funded by SB 206 as vitally necessary for all Alaskans and their children.

Here are some facts, in case you are not aware:

- Public health data shows that the risk of suicide by gun is high for Alaska's youth. Guns are the leading cause of death of Alaska's children and teens. Alaska has the third highest rate of gun suicide in the US – a rate more than double the national average.
- Alaska's 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that nearly a quarter of high school students (22.6%) in Alaska had seriously considered suicide in the past year. Among these students who had considered suicide, 58.6% said they could access a loaded gun.
- SB 206 will save lives by making it more difficult for youth to access a loaded gun – providing time between suicidal thought and action. Suicide attempts using a gun are fatal nine times out of 10. Research shows that more than 90% of people who survive a first suicide attempt do not go on to die by suicide in the future. But, if their first attempt is with a gun, they do not usually get the benefit of that second chance at life.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Pat Westbrook <patwestbrook@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2026 10:08 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 206

Finance Committee members,

I urge you to set a hearing date for this important gun safety bill. I believe this bill will save lives.

Thank you,

Patricia Westbrook,  
registered AK voter  
166 W Bunnell Ave #10  
Homer, AK 990603

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## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Amy White <amycw18@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2026 5:29 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 206

Please set a hearing for SB 206. We some common sense gun laws.

Amy Baxter  
32842 Saddleback Cir  
Soldotna AK 99669

Sent from my iPhone

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Mark S. Johnson <markjak646@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 4:59 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 206, Firearm Safe Storage

Dear Alaska State Senate Finance Committee Members.

Please support passage of SB 206, the Firearm Safe Storage legislation.

This bill will help reduce firearm injuries and fatalities among kids in Alaska, and it is likely to help prevent some suicides.

In 2000, when I was working with the Alaska Division of Public Health, we published, in the Alaska Medicine Journal, a comprehensive study of serious and fatal firearm injuries and fatalities among children and adolescents in Alaska, which probably was the first published study in the nation showing that firearms were the number one cause of injury death among kids. And, injuries exceed all other causes of death among young people. In that study, 26 years ago, we recommended a safe storage law to help reduce the number of these tragic deaths and serious injuries.

I also published an editorial in the Anchorage Daily News last year about using a firearm for self protection in the home. Based on personal practice, my wife and I can retrieve a firearm from a safe in about 20 seconds. My wife actually used her handgun to apprehend an intruder many years ago. She also has cans of bear spray handy as a backup alternative.

Therefore, we believe the goals of personal protection and firearm safe storage are not incompatible.

Thank you for carefully considering this proposed important legislation.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Johnson, MPA  
Juneau, AK  
(907) 209-8165"

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Mark S. Johnson <markjak646@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 4:59 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 206, Firearm Safe Storage

Dear Alaska State Senate Finance Committee Members.

Please support passage of SB 206, the Firearm Safe Storage legislation.

This bill will help reduce firearm injuries and fatalities among kids in Alaska, and it is likely to help prevent some suicides.

In 2000, when I was working with the Alaska Division of Public Health, we published, in the Alaska Medicine Journal, a comprehensive study of serious and fatal firearm injuries and fatalities among children and adolescents in Alaska, which probably was the first published study in the nation showing that firearms were the number one cause of injury death among kids. And, injuries exceed all other causes of death among young people. In that study, 26 years ago, we recommended a safe storage law to help reduce the number of these tragic deaths and serious injuries.

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Therefore, we believe the goals of personal protection and firearm safe storage are not incompatible.

Thank you for carefully considering this proposed important legislation.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Johnson, MPA  
Juneau, AK  
(907) 209-8165"

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** quinley <quinilator@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 5:44 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Löki Tobin  
**Cc:** Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Rep. Alyse Galvin  
**Subject:** Support for SB 206 (Suicide prevention; firearm storage)

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I encourage you to pass SB 206, An Act relating to reports of harassment, intimidation, or bullying in schools; relating to parental notification of incidents of harassment, intimidation, or bullying involving students and threats of suicide by students; and establishing the firearm safe storage grant fund.

Some argue the bill is heavy-handed, addressing a problem that is minor, or even non-existent. I would argue those persons are not in touch with the realities of being a youth in today's society. Those who ARE in touch understand the public school experience of today looks nothing like that which existed even ten years ago. The enormous use of social media and the easy access to firearms have created a dire situation that is real and **MUST BE ADDRESSED**. You have the chance to help prevent the death by suicide of another young Alaska citizen--at a relatively low cost.

An astounding 22.6% of high school students in Alaska seriously considered suicide in the past year, the majority of whom had access to a firearm. We can't eliminate access to firearms by youth, but we **CAN** make it more difficult. This bill is one opportunity to do so, and I'm very hopeful you will make it happen.

Constance Quinley, Anchorage

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Kate Flynn <kateeloomis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 7:55 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Löki Tobin  
**Subject:** Support SB 206

Dear Senate Finance,

I urge you all, including my Senator Jesse Kiehl, to support SB206. I'm a parent of two young kids and there are no issues more important to me than their safety. Gun deaths are preventable and like any public health crisis, the data speaks for itself.

You and your peers can play a role in helping to make sure that the one in four Alaska high school students who considered suicide this past year do not have easy access to a loaded gun. Guns are the leading cause of death of Alaska's youth, but it does not need to be this way. Be a leader and help us move Alaska toward a future with more gun safety access.

Please support SB 206.

Katelyn Flynn (99824)

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**Kate Flynn, MPH**  
she/her/hers

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Kristin Garot <garotk@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 8:21 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** In support of SB206

I am writing today in support of SB 206 as an effective measure to reduce youth suicide in Alaska. Being able to provide free gun storage for families to keep their own kids and visiting friends safe is worth it.

In the almost 30 years I've been an educator in Alaska, I have worked tirelessly to help prevent suicide - and I know some of the things I've done have been effective. But providing just one more step that might make a person pause or keep them from easily accessing a firearm might have saved some of the kids I know who completed suicides or died as the result of an accidental use of a firearm.

Please support moving this bill forward.

Kristin Garot  
Juneau

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Kelsey Chalker <kelseychalk@yaho.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026 12:49 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 206: School Suicide Policies; Firearm Storage bill

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Guns are the leading cause of death of Alaska's children and teens. Alaska has the third highest rate of gun suicide in the US - a rate more than double the national average.

The passage of SB 206 will save lives by making it more difficult for youth to access a loaded gun - providing time between suicidal thought and action. Research shows that more than 90% of people who survive a first suicide attempt do not go on to die by suicide in the future. But, if their first attempt is with a gun, they do not usually get the benefit of that second chance at life.

Thank you for voting YES to pass this lifesaving bill, for your hard work and service to our state.

Most Sincerely,  
Kelsey Chalker

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Rochelle Parker <rochelle.m.parker@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026 1:11 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Löki Tobin; Sen. Matt Claman; Rep. Mia Costello  
**Subject:** Support for SB 206 Firearm Safe Storage Grant Fund

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for meeting with volunteers and constituents from Alaska Moms Demand Action last week during our Advocacy Day. We were honored to team up with the Alaska Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the youth from the Bethel area in support of Senate Bill 206, which would create a firearm safe storage grant fund to provide secure gun storage information and safe storage devices, like cable locks and lockboxes, to vulnerable youth through school districts. We urge the Senate Finance committee to move this important bill forward.

Firearms are the leading cause of death for Alaskan children and teens, and more than half of gun deaths for these kids are suicides. The 2023 Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that nearly a quarter of Alaskan high school students (22.6%) had seriously considered suicide in the past year, and among these students who had considered suicide, 58.6% said they could access a loaded gun. Because firearm suicide is uniquely lethal, it is so important that we increase our education efforts and access to secure gun storage to put critical time and space between a person in crisis and a deadly weapon. Often a delay of 10 minutes can save a person's life.

I have been a volunteer with the Be SMART for Kids ([besmartforkids.org](https://besmartforkids.org)) program for the past several years, sharing information about secure storage with school districts across Alaska and offering cable locks to families in need. We have met school counselors, school nurses, and administrators from Anchorage to Ketchikan to Kalskag and beyond who have requested educational literature encouraging secure gun storage and cable locks for their students (mostly supplied through donations from the Alaska VA). However, this effort has largely been limited by the small number of volunteers we have to do the work and whether schools are even aware of the secure storage resources that are available to their students. This bill would institutionalize these efforts, providing more equitable access to secure storage education and low-cost devices like cable locks. It falls in line with the Alaska Statewide Suicide Prevention Plan (Goal #3), which prioritizes reducing access to lethal means, including guns, during times of crisis.

This bill would not limit Second Amendment rights; it would not even require parents to lock their guns at home. It would provide schools with resources to talk with families of vulnerable youth about the importance of secure gun storage in preventing suicide and provide low-cost options for locking guns to potentially save their child's life.

If we have the ability to save a young person's life, especially a young person who may be considering suicide, we have the responsibility to do so. I applaud Senator Tobin for introducing this bill and encourage you to move it forward.

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Teri Inch - she, her, hers <inchteri@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026 1:17 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Löki Tobin  
**Cc:** Sen. Forrest Dunbar  
**Subject:** support SB206 Gun Storage

Please move this bill forward. This does not infringe on anyones rights but may save lives. Alaska has the a horrible mental health report card. That alone is reason for the government to put in place protections. Additional reasons are:

- Public health data shows that the risk of suicide by gun is high for Alaska’s youth. Guns are the leading cause of death of Alaska’s children and teens. Alaska has the third highest rate of gun suicide in the US – a rate more than double the national average.
- Alaska’s 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that nearly a quarter of high school students (22.6%) in Alaska had seriously considered suicide in the past year. Among these students who had considered suicide, 58.6% said they could access a loaded gun.
- SB 206 will save lives by making it more difficult for youth to access a loaded gun – providing **time** between suicidal thought and action. Suicide attempts using a gun are fatal nine times out of 10. Research shows that more than 90% of people who survive a first suicide attempt do not go on to die by suicide in the future. But, if their first attempt is with a gun, they do not usually get the benefit of that second chance at life.
- Alaska’s Statewide Suicide Prevention Plan for 2023-2027 (Goal #3) prioritizes reducing access to lethal means, including guns, during times of crisis. SB 206 will implement this state-approved plan.

— SB 206 is supported by statewide organizations, including the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Alaska Chapter; Association of Alaska School Boards, Alaska League of Women Voters, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and Alaska Behavioral Health Association.

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To listen is to lean in, softly, with a willingness to be changed by what we hear. –Mark Nepo  
Teri

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sen. Donny Olson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026 2:40 PM  
**To:** Liz Harpold; Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** FW: SB 206: School Suicide Policies; Firearm Storage bill

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**From:** Kelsey Chalker <kelseychalkers@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026 12:59 PM  
**To:** Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** SB 206: School Suicide Policies; Firearm Storage bill

Dear Senator Olson,

Guns are the leading cause of death of Alaska's children and teens. Alaska has the third highest rate of gun suicide in the US - a rate more than double the national average.

The passage of SB 206 will save lives by making it more difficult for youth to access a loaded gun - providing time between suicidal thought and action. Research shows that more than 90% of people who survive a first suicide attempt do not go on to die by suicide in the future. But, if their first attempt is with a gun, they do not usually get the benefit of that second chance at life.

Thank you for voting YES to pass this lifesaving bill, for your hard work and service to our state.

Most Sincerely,  
Kelsey Chalker

# Alaska Chapter

*Incorporated in Alaska*

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

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March 25, 2026

**Re: SB 206- Sec. 44.21.070. Firearm safe storage grant fund**

Dear Members of the House Senate Finance Committee,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, Alaska Chapter supports the passage of SB206 which included the firearm safe storage grant fund. As you are aware, violence is a public health crisis in the United States and in Alaska. As the state with the highest rate of gun deaths in the country and the highest rate of gun suicides among our young people, it is time to take proactive action.

The passage of SB 206 will provide some protection for Alaska's children. In 2019, 48.9% of Alaskan high school students reported they could access a loaded firearm. In Alaska, firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens. On average, 22 children and teens die by firearms every year with 61% being gun suicides.

Each year nearly 350 children in the US gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. Alaska has the second highest rate of injuries and death resulting from unintentional shootings by children.

Establishing a fund to help schools provide families with gun locks and/or storage devices is a great start to helping keep firearms out of the hands of vulnerable children. Providing safe storage of firearms reduces the incidence of gun suicides, unintentional shootings and gun violence. We need to protect our pediatric population and SB 206 is one way to do that. Let's teach our children and teens about secure storage of firearms and help reduce the number of injuries and deaths caused by unsafe storage.

Sincerely,  
Jody Butte, MD.  
FAAP  
Westley Gifford, MD, FAAP  
Carla Laos, MD, FAAP  
Anna Ogena, MD FAAP

## **Doniece Gott**

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**From:** kato-owen@gci.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026 10:38 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Löki Tobin  
**Subject:** Support for SB206

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

As a lifelong Alaskan and mother and grandmother, I strongly urge you to pass SB 206 for the implementation of a safe firearm storage grant fund for families in schools. This unique distribution system would be an effective way to reduce firearm injuries and deaths in Alaska, particularly suicide deaths.

Alaska's gun death rate and gun suicide rates are among the highest in the nation. Among children and youth, gun deaths are nearly double the number of motor vehicle deaths posing substantial risk.

Almost a quarter of Alaskan high school students have seriously considered suicide during the past year, and among those 59% report they could access a loaded gun. In fact, among students who have seriously considered suicide, 26% report they could access a loaded gun in less than 10 minutes and 43% could be ready to fire a loaded gun in less than an hour. (2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey)

Please support this bill that increases secure gun storage and decreases access to loaded firearms especially among youth to prevent suicide and accidental gun injuries and deaths.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Patty Owen  
Juneau

## **Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Diane DeSloover <dianedesloover@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026 9:50 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Löki Tobin; Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Sara Hannan  
**Subject:** Testimony SB 206

March 24, 2026

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

What does war in the middle east have to do with SB 206? The actions you take in the coming weeks will have no impact on what is happening in Iran and surrounding countries, but you can do something to save lives in Alaska by supporting the passage of SB 206.

In Alaska, the gun suicide rate is more than double the national average. In 2023, one in five (22.6%) Alaska high school students polled had seriously considered suicide and 58.6% percent of them could access a loaded gun. (Results from 2023 Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey)

Access to firearms is a major contributor to suicide deaths. Over half (60.78%) of suicides in Alaska are by gun. Nine out of 10 firearm suicide attempts are successful. Guns take an impulsive moment and make it permanent.

SB 206 makes Alaskan schools important partners in the mission to reduce teen suicide deaths. This bill enables schools to provide support and resources to parents of teens at risk of suicide. The grant fund will furnish firearm safe storage devices such as gun locks or safes at no cost to families. When firearms are unavailable or harder to access, it can make the difference between life and death. A delayed impulse can be a defused impulse.

You can't influence a war fought on foreign soil but you can make a difference for Alaskan teens. I urge you to help Alaska's schools reduce teen suicide by passing SB 206.

Sincerely,

Diane DeSloover

6713 Sherri Street

Juneau, AK 99801

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Irene Bortnick <ibortnick@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026 9:41 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson  
**Subject:** Support SB 206

Dear Committee Members,

Please support SB 206 – School Suicide Policies; Firearm Storage. This bill goes a long way to helping to protect vulnerable students who are having adverse experiences at school or are contemplating suicide.

It acknowledges 2 facts—children may be bullied or harassed and Alaskans own guns. It does not infringe on 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights but serves to educate the public on the need for safe storage. Cost should never be a deterrent for keeping our children safe. The cost for not keeping them safe, including the financial cost, is much higher.

We know too that firearms are the #1 cause of death for Alaska's children and teens. Alaska has the third highest gun suicide rate in the nation. According to Alaska's 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 22.6% of students had seriously considered suicide in the last year. Firearms are the most lethal among suicide methods and even a short delay in access can make a difference.

This bill goes a step further than other policies that may already be in place in schools by providing safe storage options for firearms. We know that keeping weapons locked up and harder to access saves lives.

SB 206 has support from a number of statewide organizations and deserves your support too.

Please vote in favor of SB 206 which will go a long way to protecting our most valuable resource, our youth.

Sincerely,  
Irene Bortnick

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Brandon B <bcbrooks1996@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026 9:29 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Löki Tobin  
**Subject:** Support for SB 206

I am writing as a constituent of Sen Merrick in support of Senate Bill 206. The safe storage of firearms is one of the easiest steps in preventing tragedies in homes with firearms. Secure storage of weapons is a central tenet of firearms handling taught at every range event I ever participated in in my almost 25 years in the Marine Corps. Preventing unauthorized people from accessing firearms is why armories exist across every base, station, and post across this country.

This bill imposes no restrictions and unlike military rules has no mandates requiring secure storage on any gun owner, it simply allows for funding for devices to help prevent from finding unsecured firearms. There is no sound logical reason to not pass this bill.

Thank you

Brandon Brooks  
Eagle River

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Tina Seaton <tinaseaton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2026 9:44 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support SB206

I strongly support SB206.

ANY deterrent that can keep a troubled teen from committing suicide or lashing out at classmates with a gun must be supported! Alaska is among the top states for gun suicide deaths and the fifth highest gun death rate in the nation. We must start to push those numbers down! This is a small step, but hopefully one that will pass those who would fight any restrictions on guns. But we need this, because our children are precious! We need to do anything we can to make it harder for children to access guns when they are hurting.

Please support SB206 and move it out of committee.

Tina Seaton  
Homer, AK

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Jan Caulfield <janiceacaulfield@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2026 7:56 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Löki Tobin; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 206 - SUPPORT & Request for Public Hearing in Finance Committee

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 206. I urge the Senate Finance committee to hold a public hearing on SB 206 and move this important bill forward.

**SB 206 sets up a grant fund to provide free firearm locking devices to families with youth in crisis, upon their request – with an emphasis on preventing youth suicide.**

**SB 206 should not be controversial. THIS BILL DOES NOT REQUIRE A GUN OWNER TO DO ANYTHING. Nor does it prohibit, curtail or restrict a gun owner from owning, possessing or using a firearm, or dictate how it is stored.**

SB 206 will save lives by implementing one of the key goals of Alaska's Statewide Suicide Prevention Plan 2023-2027, Goal #3, which prioritizes reducing access to lethal means, including guns, during times of crisis.

SB 206 is completely in keeping with secure storage and suicide prevention messaging now widespread in the US – including among gun owners; veterans; and industry, gun rights and shooting sports organizations. **People who may have different perspectives on some firearms issues, are working together to support secure gun storage, especially to prevent suicide.** For example:

- **The National Sport Shooting Foundation (NSSF)**, a Firearm Industry Trade Association, has developed a suicide prevention toolkit & resources for industry and gun owners. NSSF emphasizes the importance of secure gun storage for suicide prevention, stating: "Understand that the final decision to take one's life is often made impulsively, and the time between the decision and the act is typically less than 10 minutes. **Securely storing firearms and other lethal means to delay or prevent access creates 'time and space' — a pause that can save a life [emphasis added].**"
- **The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)** emphasizes that: "**Creating time and space between crisis and action** provides crucial moments to face life's challenges", urges veterans to lock their firearms, and provides free gun locks through the VA.

- **The VA partnered with the NSSF and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) to develop and promote the [Safe Firearm Storage Toolkit](#), focused on building coalitions to raise awareness about safe firearm storage practices.**
- **States are stepping up to promote secure gun storage with a range of programs. For example, by law, Texas school districts distribute information to parents and guardians about the safe storage of firearms through [Keep 'Em Safe Texas](#).**

These are all examples that show that we can come together to promote and facilitate secure firearm storage to save lives.

Can't Alaska be bold enough to simply provide secure gun storage devices to families who need and want them to protect their youth from suicide?

You know how bad our youth suicide statistics are.\* Please do something. Please start by holding a public hearing for SB 206.

Thank you,

Janice Caulfield  
Juneau, Alaska

\*Alaska youth gun suicide statistics:

- Firearms are the leading cause of death of Alaska's children and teens (ages 0-19).
- There were 94 gun deaths among children and teens between 2019-2023 — 63.41% were suicide.
- Alaska's 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that nearly a quarter of high school students (22.6%) in Alaska had seriously considered suicide in the past year. Among these students who had considered suicide, 58.6% said they could access a loaded gun, with 26% able to do so within ten minutes.

## Alaskans Support Senate Bill 206 to Prevent Youth Suicide

Dear Alaska State Legislator,

We urge you to support Senate Bill 206, which would establish a **Firearm Safe Storage Device Grant Fund**. The bill will result in safe firearm storage devices (such as lockboxes and cable locks) being provided free to Alaska's school districts to distribute to families upon request, with priority for families of at-risk youth; and supports education on the importance of secure firearm storage as a proven suicide prevention strategy.

Alaska's youth are at high risk of suicide by firearm. Alaska's 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that nearly a quarter of high school students (22.6%) in Alaska had seriously considered suicide in the past year. Among these students who had considered suicide, 58.6% said they could access a loaded gun, with 26% able to do so within ten minutes.

SB 206 will save lives by making it more difficult for youth in crisis to access a loaded gun – providing critical **time** between suicidal thought and action. Suicide attempts using a gun are fatal nine times out of ten. Research shows that more than 90% of people who survive a first suicide attempt do not go on to die by suicide in the future. But, if their first attempt is with a gun, they do not usually get the benefit of that second chance at life.

Alaska's Statewide Suicide Prevention Plan for 2023-2027 (Goal #3) prioritizes reducing access to lethal means, including guns, during times of crisis. SB 206 will implement this state-approved plan.

SB 206 is supported by statewide and regional organizations that are dedicated to the health and well-being of Alaska's youth, families and communities, and that **represent thousands of Alaskans** across the state concerned about the high prevalence of gun suicides among our youth. Supporting organizations include:

- Alaska Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- Association of Alaska School Boards
- Alaska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Alaska Academy of Family Practice Physicians
- Alaska Behavioral Health Association
- Alaska Children's Trust
- Alaska Public Health Association
- Alaska Native Sisterhood Glacier Valley Camp 70
- Alaska League of Women Voters
- Alaska Moms Demand Action
- Center for Safe Alaskans
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
- JAMHI Health and Wellness
- NAMI Juneau

Too many young friends and loved ones have died by firearm suicide, impacting our communities for generations. Please take a meaningful step to protect the lives of Alaskan youth by moving SB 206 forward.

Sincerely,

James Biela	Bethel, Alaska
Vern Cleveland	Noorvik, Alaska
Ed McFadden	Sitka, Alaska
Rebecca Baskin	Eagle River, Alaska
Laura Kabatt-Kennedy	Eagle River, Alaska
Fran Ulmer	Anchorage, Alaska
Janet Kaiser	Bethel, Alaska
Beverly Hoffman	Bethel, Alaska
Kathy Hanson	Bethel, Alaska
Marion Hoffman	Bethel, Alaska
Michael Hoffman	Bethel, Alaska
Jill Hoffman	Bethel, Alaska
Bruce Botelho	Douglas, Alaska
Margo Bellamy	Anchorage, Alaska
Susan Georgette	Kotzebue, Alaska
Chloe Naylor	Kotzebue, Alaska
Mark Gorman	Sitka, Alaska
Jeff Budd	Sitka, Alaska
Bethany Kaiser	Bethel, Alaska
Tillie Powers	Anchorage, Alaska
Alaina Summers	Bethel, Alaska
Casey McDonald	Anchorage, Alaska
Kathryn Baldwin	Bethel, Alaska
Chase Powers	Anchorage, Alaska
Sarah Scambler	Wrangell, Alaska
Rochelle Parker	Anchorage, Alaska
Erika Gaskins	Fairbanks, Alaska
Janae Saltzgeber	Soldotna, Alaska
Ashley Doss	Eagle River, Alaska
Morgan Turner	Eagle River, Alaska
Angie Hamill	Chugiak, Alaska
Bill Tremblay	Petersburg, Alaska
Nancy C. Knapp	Sitka, Alaska
Toby Campbell	Sitka, Alaska

Paul Seaton	Homer, Alaska
Christine Seaton	Homer, Alaska
Cathleen Rolph	Soldotna, Alaska
Amy Baxter	Soldotna, Alaska
Danielle Self	Ninilchik, Alaska
Collauna Marley	Sitka, Alaska
Patricia Atkinson	Sitka, Alaska
Caitlin Blaisdell	Sitka, Alaska
Elizabeth Silberling	Fairbanks, Alaska
Grant Matheke	Fairbanks, Alaska
Marc Dumas	Fairbanks, Alaska
Joann Torgeson	Sitka, Alaska
Katie Riley	Sitka, Alaska
Paige Poston	Fairbanks, Alaska
Caroline Kirby	Eagle River, Alaska
Stacey Fuccillo	Eagle River, Alaska
Victoria Curran	Sitka, Alaska
Debbie Miller	Sitka, Alaska
Hollyn Roberts	Eagle River, Alaska
Anne Ogden	Chugiak, Alaska
Triona O'Broin	Sitka, Alaska
Catherine Rogers	Sitka, Alaska
Chandler O'Connell	Sitka, Alaska
Barbara Brown	Kodiak, Alaska
Crista Johnson	Palmer, Alaska
Tamara Kruse Roselius	Fairbanks, Alaska
Jen Gunderson	Fairbanks, Alaska
Cindy Litman	Sitka, Alaska
Donna Donohoe	Sitka, Alaska
Maureen Hall	Juneau, Alaska
Gordon Williams	Juneau/Angoon, Alaska
Janice Caulfield	Juneau, Alaska
Cindy Edwards	Sitka, Alaska
Valerie Edwards	Sitka, Alaska
Jenny Miller	Anchorage, Alaska
Maria Crawford	Anchorage, Alaska
Lea Stanton Gregor	Petersburg, Alaska
Cynthia Lagoudakis	Petersburg, Alaska
Marian Elliott	Wasilla, Alaska
Cheryl Vastola	Sitka, Alaska

Bridget Hitchcock	Sitka, Alaska
Amanda Capitummino	Sitka, Alaska
Jess Rogers	Sutton, Alaska
Diane DeSloover	Juneau, Alaska
Larri Spengler	Juneau, Alaska
Odette Edgar	Juneau, Alaska
Stacy Koster	Wasilla, Alaska
Irene Bortnick	Anchorage, Alaska
Raegan Nicholson	Wasilla, Alaska
Jeanne Rynne	Douglas, Alaska
Therese Lewandowski	Homer, Alaska
Thomas Paul	Juneau, Alaska
Barbara Dunham	Anchorage, Alaska
Lisa Poirier	Anchorage, Alaska
Diane Doser	Soldotna, Alaska
April Rochford	Anchorage, Alaska
Katie Reilly	Anchorage, Alaska
Laura Fleming	Juneau, Alaska
Luann McVey	Douglas, Alaska
Sheri Whitethorn	Anchorage, Alaska
Heidi Heimerl	Anchorage, Alaska
Kimberly Hays	Anchorage, Alaska
Sally Rue	Juneau, Alaska
Josephine Swiss	Anchorage, Alaska
Joclyn Reilly	Anchorage, Alaska
Mary McCafferty	Juneau, Alaska
Lori Crupi	Juneau, Alaska
Emily A Kane	Juneau, Alaska
Patsy Wright	Juneau, Alaska
Frank Rue	Juneau, Alaska
Nicky Eiseman	Ester, Alaska
Kristen Schupp	Fairbanks, Alaska
Morgan Yaskus	Wasilla, Alaska
Katelyn Flynn	Juneau, Alaska
Marjorie Thomson	Juneau, Alaska
Barbara Sheinberg	Juneau, Alaska
Cristin Rolf	Anchorage, Alaska
Anni Caulfield	Juneau, Alaska
Neville Bruce	Anchorage, Alaska
Suzanne Sauerteig	Juneau, Alaska

Laura Stats	Juneau, Alaska
Ann Gifford	Juneau, Alaska
John Neary	Juneau, Alaska
Sally Donaldson	Juneau, Alaska
Alex Koplin	Homer, Alaska
Randall Wiest	Homer, Alaska
Catriona Reynolds	Homer, Alaska
Harold C. Smith MD	Homer, Alaska
Betty Johnson	Juneau, Alaska
Claire Richardson	Juneau, Alaska
Karen McBride	Anchorage, Alaska
Barbara Learmonth	Juneau, Alaska
Annette Marley	Anchorage, Alaska
Alex Bortnick	Anchorage, Alaska
Janell Meade	Juneau, Alaska
Mark Johnson	Juneau, Alaska
Ruth Dene	Anchorage, Alaska
Colleen Heaney-Mead	Anchorage, Alaska
Betsy Brenneman	Juneau, Alaska
Lejla Berberovic	Anchorage, Alaska
Debbie Fagnant	Juneau, Alaska
Kelsey Chalker	Anchorage, Alaska
Carly Lehnhart	Juneau, Alaska
Susan Urig	Anchorage, Alaska
Veronica Irwin	Anchorage, Alaska
Maria Lisowski	Juneau, Alaska
Teri Inch	Anchorage, Alaska
Nancy Lehnhart	Juneau, Alaska
Grey Pendleton	Juneau, Alaska
Amy Kesten	Juneau, Alaska
Richard Fagnant	Juneau, Alaska
Paula Davis	Anchorage, Alaska
Marian Clough	Auke Bay, Alaska
Stephanie Smith	Wasilla, Alaska
Erin Bendle	Wasilla, Alaska
Danna Larson	Anchorage, Alaska
Sarah Baldwin	Anchorage, Alaska
Evelyn Waltenbaugh	Homer, Alaska
Colleen Bridge	Anchorage, Alaska
Michele Champion	Anchorage, Alaska

Judith Cavanaugh	Juneau, Alaska
Ray Pastorino	Juneau, Alaska
Liv Emery	Anchorage, Alaska
Rachael McPherson	Anchorage, Alaska
Belle Merritt	Palmer, Alaska
Gary Waltenbaugh	Homer, Alaska
Emily Becker	Anchorage, Alaska
Leah Hart	Anchorage, Alaska
Ambre Johnson McCormick	Anchorage, Alaska
Calisa Kastning	Anchorage, Alaska
Anjuli Grantham	Juneau, Alaska
Craig Doser	Soldotna, Alaska
Joel Cladouhos	Anchorage, Alaska
Mark Baker	Soldotna, Alaska
Dara Rilatos	Juneau, Alaska
Naomi Sundberg	Gustavus, Alaska
Ann Rappoport	Anchorage, Alaska
Joyanne Bloom	Juneau, Alaska
Bev Ingram	Juneau, Alaska
Claire Wilson	Anchorage, Alaska
Shari Paul	Juneau, Alaska
Kimberly Metcalfe Helmar	Juneau, Alaska
Patrice Parker	Anchorage, Alaska
Jetta Whittaker	Juneau, Alaska
Carolyn Stone	Anchorage, Alaska
Mary Capobianco	Juneau, Alaska
Janice Levy	Juneau, Alaska
Mary Dallas Allen	Anchorage, Alaska
Jeannie Monk	Juneau, Alaska
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Ann Lovejoy	Anchorage, Alaska
Reilly Tillman	Anchorage, Alaska
Neilee Smith	Anchorage, Alaska
E. Reilly	Anchorage, Alaska
Desiree Rodriguez	Anchorage, Alaska
Whitney Bouchard	Anchorage, Alaska
Kathryn Heaslet	Anchorage, Alaska
Patty Owen	Juneau, Alaska
Bruce Kato	Juneau, Alaska
Erin Morotti	Fairbanks, Alaska

Toni McPherson	Anchorage, Alaska
Stuart McPherson	Anchorage, Alaska
Steve Lindbeck	Anchorage, Alaska
Cindy Emery	Anchorage, Alaska
Gary Lehnhart	Juneau, Alaska
Owen Kelley	Juneau, Alaska
Chantal de Alcuaz	Anchorage, Alaska
Victoria Long-Leather	Anchorage, Alaska
David Irons	Anchorage, Alaska
April Garza	Anchorage, Alaska
Linda Janidlo	Anchorage, Alaska
Jessie Burbank	Wasilla, Alaska
Mary Welker	Anchorage, Alaska
Elizabeth Roderick	Anchorage, Alaska
Molly McCammon	Anchorage, Alaska
Susan Soule	Anchorage, Alaska
Mildred Ryan	Juneau, Alaska
Carol G. Harding	Homer, Alaska
Louis Dupree	Homer, Alaska
Sharon Zandman-Zeman	Anchorage, Alaska
Patricia O'Gorman	Anchorage, Alaska
Janis Kozlowski	Anchorage, Alaska
Jack Heesch	Anchorage, Alaska
Donna Lind	Anchorage, Alaska
Patty Ginsburg	Anchorage, Alaska
Michael Kerosky	Anchorage, Alaska
Bradley Cruz	Anchorage, Alaska
Barbara Norton	Anchorage, Alaska
Fred Fisher	Juneau, Alaska
Sarah Glaser	Anchorage, Alaska
Joyce Swan	Anchorage, Alaska
Joan Diamond	Anchorage, Alaska
Kimberly Maxwell	Ester, Alaska
Michele Masuda	Juneau, Alaska
Susan Oesting	Homer, Alaska
Becky Judd	Anchorage, Alaska
Harry Tullis	Juneau, Alaska
Timi Tullis	Juneau, Alaska
Dave Haas	Juneau, Alaska
Mary Ellen Arvold	Juneau, Alaska

Susan O. Bramstedt	Anchorage, Alaska
Mary Ellen Ashton	Anchorage, Alaska
Chuck Guthrie	Juneau, Alaska
Philip A. Layral	Fairbanks, Alaska
Martha Moore	Juneau, Alaska
Saralyn Tabachnick	Juneau, Alaska
David Musgrave	Palmer, Alaska
Jennifer L. Smith	Juneau, Alaska
Alex Wertheimer	Juneau, Alaska
Peggy Wertheimer	Juneau, Alaska
Anne Fuller	Juneau, Alaska
Beth Giron Pendleton	Juneau, Alaska
Linda Kruger	Juneau, Alaska
Debbie Lowenthal	Juneau, Alaska
Cristi Herren	Juneau, Alaska
Ellen Brown	Anchorage, Alaska
Glenda Blaylock	Anchorage, Alaska
Estela Holst	Juneau, Alaska
Jennifer Dillon	Juneau, Alaska
Sarah Lewis	Fairbanks, Alaska
Beverly Grogan	Anchorage, Alaska
Dr. Lindsey Banning	Anchorage, Alaska
Jorden Nigro	Juneau, Alaska
Mary Schallert	Anchorage, Alaska
Alice Myers	Anchorage, Alaska
Katie Dawson	Homer, Alaska
Kathy Robinson	Homer, Alaska
Kristin Garot	Juneau, Alaska
Ronald Keffer	Homer, Alaska
Robin Gilcrist	Juneau, Alaska
Susan Mclane	Homer, Alaska
Paula Cullenberg	Homer, Alaska
Peter Crimp	Homer, Alaska
Ginger Baim	Wasilla, Alaska
Gwenn Hennon	Fairbanks, Alaska
Lolita Brache	Homer, Alaska
Karen Murdock	Homer, Alaska
John Clough	Auke Bay, Alaska
Carol Swartz	Homer, Alaska
Robert Bradshaw	Juneau, Alaska

Rob Downey	Homer, Alaska
Laurie Daniel	Homer, Alaska
Caroline Venuti	Homer, Alaska
Cynthia Sisson	Homer, Alaska
Melissa Worden	Juneau, Alaska
Kevin Passa	Fairbanks, Alaska
Eli Michael	Anchorage, Alaska
Gabriella Moore	Juneau, Alaska
Scott Hayden	Anchorage, Alaska
Ben Dobrovolny	Fairbanks, Alaska
John Brown	Fairbanks, Alaska
Mary Tonsmeire	Douglas, Alaska
Emily Walker	Juneau, Alaska
Halie Starweir	Anchorage, Alaska
Rob Worden	Juneau, Alaska
Jayne E. Andreen	Douglas, Alaska
Pamela Watts	Juneau, Alaska
Janice Park	Anchorage, Alaska
Richard Steele	Douglas, Alaska
Laura Steele	Juneau, Alaska
Jeanie McVey	Auke Bay, Alaska
Haifa Foroughi	Juneau, Alaska
Eric Kueffner	Juneau, Alaska
Manuela Wehrmann	Juneau, Alaska
Cheryl Westley	Anchorage, Alaska
Kerry Kirkpatrick	Juneau, Alaska
Frances Roberts	Juneau, Alaska
Maria Gladziszewski	Juneau, Alaska
Janelle Palomino	Juneau, Alaska
Ulla Pedersen	Juneau, Alaska
Katie Storey	Juneau, Alaska
Taylor Bare	Juneau, Alaska
Iris Matthews	Juneau, Alaska
Andria Budbill	Juneau, Alaska
Lauren Gabelein	Juneau, Alaska
Glenn Wright	Juneau, Alaska
Melissa Senac	Gustavus, Alaska
Jacqueline Fowler	Juneau, Alaska
Jane Atkinson	Fairbanks, Alaska
Christina Hinz	Juneau, Alaska

Chelsea Moneghan	Juneau, Alaska
Wendy Stears	Juneau, Alaska
Riley Stadt	Juneau, Alaska
Lin Davis	Juneau, Alaska
Maureen Longworth	Juneau, Alaska
Tim Blust	Juneau, Alaska
Genoa Mangusso	Juneau, Alaska
Stefanie Bouma	Juneau, Alaska
Michael Teo	Anchorage, Alaska
Carolann Weir	Anchorage, Alaska
Toni-Jo Dalman	Juneau, Alaska
Natalie Sadeghi	Juneau, Alaska
Mary DeSmet	Juneau, Alaska
Greg Burger	Juneau, Alaska
Devyn Kubley	Juneau, Alaska
Mallory Story	Juneau, Alaska
David Hart	Anchorage, Alaska
Anne Carpeneti	Juneau, Alaska
Sheridan Cook	Juneau, Alaska
Barbara Lindh	Juneau, Alaska
Heather Brandon	Juneau, Alaska
Benjamin Hoffman	Juneau, Alaska
Phoebe Koenig	Juneau, Alaska
Katelyn Combs	Juneau, Alaska
Justin Gillette	Anchorage, Alaska
Catherine Bradshaw	Anchorage, Alaska
Natalie Watson	Juneau, Alaska
Terra Stark	Juneau, Alaska
Holly Huber	Juneau, Alaska
Kathryn Carssow	Homer, Alaska
Carrie Harris	Anchorage, Alaska
Cynthia Earley	Anchorage, Alaska
Cheryl Silcox	Anchorage, Alaska
Jennifer Estes	Anchorage, Alaska
Clare Ross	Anchorage, Alaska
Becky Porter	Anchorage, Alaska
Chris Wightman	Anchorage, Alaska
Allie Hartman	Anchorage, Alaska
Elizabeth Pantaleone	Anchorage, Alaska
Janet Beauchamp	Juneau, Alaska

Emily Thatcher	Anchorage, Alaska
Ellen Johnson-Price	Anchorage, Alaska
Nancy Simpson	Juneau, Alaska
Helen Gustafson	Homer, Alaska
Sandra Garity	Homer, Alaska
Devry Garity	Homer, Alaska
Elizabeth Wolfe	Haines, Alaska
Eric Muehling	Fairbanks, Alaska
Elisabeth Hauser	Juneau, Alaska
Brianne Mecum	Juneau, Alaska
John Sonin	Douglas, Alaska
Dwight Parker	Anchorage, Alaska
Carol Ann Wolfe	Anchorage, Alaska
Charity Anderson	Juneau, Alaska
Danielle Alston	Juneau, Alaska
Karen Lipson	Juneau, Alaska
Carol Barnhill	Anchorage, Alaska
Tyler Hennon	Fairbanks, Alaska
Genevieve Solstice	Anchorage, Alaska
Heidi Heimerl	Anchorage, Alaska
Martha Stey	Juneau, Alaska
Jim Stey	Juneau, Alaska
Andrew Thoms	Sitka, Alaska
Naomi Demmert	Juneau, Alaska
Norman Cohen	Juneau, Alaska



Committed To Advancing Alaska's Public Health Since 1978

**Date:** April 2, 2026

House and Senate Committee Chairs and Members

Alaska State Legislature

**Re: Support for HB 89 (Gun Violence Protective Orders), SB 203 (Prohibited Weapons/Firearm Convert Device), and SB 206 (School suicide policies; Firearm Storage). Opposition to SB 243 (Definition of a Prohibited Weapon).**

Dear **Alaska Legislator:**

On behalf of the Alaska Public Health Association (ALPHA), I am writing to express our **support for HB 89 (Gun Violence Protective Orders), SB 203 (Prohibited Weapons/Firearm Convert Device), and SB 206 (School suicide policies; Firearm Storage)**, all of which aim to protect Alaskans from gun violence and gun suicide.

I am also writing to express our **opposition to SB 243 (Definition of a Prohibited Weapon)**, which diminishes state law enforcement's ability to identify and track gun silencers that are not registered at the federal level.

This legislation is important to public health in Alaska because the state's gun death rate increased by 22% from 2014 to 2023. In 2023, Alaska had the 5<sup>th</sup> highest gun death rate and 3<sup>rd</sup> highest gun suicide rate in the country overall. **Tragically, firearms were the leading cause of death among Alaska's children from 2019-2023, nearly 2/3 of these from suicide.** ([State Data: Alaska | Center for Gun Violence Solutions](#)) Alaska's [2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#) found that nearly a quarter of high school students (22.6%) in Alaska had seriously considered suicide in the past year. Among these students who had considered suicide, 58.6% said they could access a loaded gun, with 26% able to do so within ten minutes.

Implementing gun violence protective orders (HB 89), prohibiting rapid fire conversion devices (SB 203), and providing a firearm storage fund prioritizing children at risk of suicide (SB 206) are all **evidence-based approaches** to preventing gun violence and gun suicide.

In contrast, removing gun suppression devices, or "silencers," from the state's prohibited weapons list (SB 243) would be **moving in the wrong direction** for public health in Alaska, as these devices pose a risk to public safety. Today, Alaska can independently prosecute any unregistered silencer possession as a state crime. If SB 243 were to pass, this would no longer be the case. Although state law enforcement would be able to report unregistered devices to federal law enforcement, any subsequent follow-through from the federal level could not be assumed. Also, if silencers were made legal in Alaska, and if the gun lobby were to succeed in their recent efforts to do away with the requirement to register silencers with the NFA at the federal level, felons, domestic abusers, and people with dangerous mental illness would be able to buy silencers with no background check at all. For more information on this, visit [Block Silencer Deregulation | Everytown Research & Policy](#).

ALPHA's stance on this set of legislative bills is grounded in established public health policy.

ALASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
1404 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. Anchorage, AK 99501 • 907-600-3355  
[alpha@alaskapublichealth.org](mailto:alpha@alaskapublichealth.org)  
[www.alaskapublichealth.org](http://www.alaskapublichealth.org)



Committed To Advancing Alaska's Public Health Since 1978

Our position on this legislation aligns with:

- ALPHA Resolution 2022-01: [2022-01 Resolution - Requiring Secure Storage of Firearms in Alaska.pdf](#)
- ALPHA Resolution 2020-03: [2020-03 Resolution - Gun Violence and Firearm Injury Prevention in Alaska](#)

These policies emphasize the rights of Alaskans to live their lives without firearm injury or death while still protecting the right to own a gun.

We believe that HB 89 (Gun Violence Protective Orders), SB 203 (Prohibited Weapons/Firearm Convert Device), and SB 206 (School suicide policies; Firearm Storage) represent a meaningful step toward ensuring Alaskans live free from gun violence and gun suicide. We respectfully urge your support for these bills, and your opposition to SB 243 "Definition of a Prohibited Weapon," which would keep silencers on the state's prohibited weapons list.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration. Please feel free to contact us if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Cleaton".

Julie Cleaton  
President, Alaska Public Health Association

Email: [alpha@alaskapublichealth.org](mailto:alpha@alaskapublichealth.org)

ALASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
1404 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. Anchorage, AK 99501 • 907-600-3355  
[alpha@alaskapublichealth.org](mailto:alpha@alaskapublichealth.org)  
[www.alaskapublichealth.org](http://www.alaskapublichealth.org)



April 13, 2026

Senate Finance Committee  
Alaska State Capitol  
120 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for Senate Bill 206 – School Suicide Policies; Firearm Storage

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Alaska Children's Trust offers our strong support for Senate Bill 206, which would provide foundations for an opt-in framework for parent notification when their child is involved in a bullying/harassment situation or has made a suicidal threat. As the statewide lead organization focused on the prevention of child abuse and neglect, we support policies that promote parenting knowledge and safety in our communities. Senate Bill 206 does this by integrating access to resources in parental notification systems in public schools.

Senate Bill 206 creates a framework for public schools to adopt a plan to notify parents when their child is involved in bullying and harassment incidents or has made a threat of suicide. When a student is bullied or harassed, they are often left with difficult emotions. Some children shut down when they have these hard feelings and may not want to immediately tell a parent or do not have access to a parent right after they return home from school. This can be troubling, considering parents are uniquely equipped to help support their child in these times of crisis. As part of the notification process, Senate Bill 206 directs school districts to provide parents with resources on how to get a risk screening, safely store weapons and medications, and how to request free safe storage devices.

National data shows that many children who attempt suicide use a method available at home. The time between suicidal ideation and an attempt is often short. Due to this short response time, restricting children and youth's access to weapons and medications is an immediate action parents can take to intervene. Safe storage devices can assist families in storing unsafe items out of children and youth's reach. By equipping parent notifications with immediate resources, intervention during a high-risk point for the affected child is supported. And by putting these resources directly into parents' hands, Senate Bill 206 better supports parents in being the first responder for their child. Senate Bill 206 would additionally establish the Firearm Safe Storage Grant Fund. This fund would be used to purchase and distribute safe storage devices such as lock boxes, safes, and cable locks to school districts at no cost.

According to KIDS COUNT, 29% of Alaska high schoolers in 2023 reported seriously considering suicide. Alaska consistently has one of the highest teen suicide rates in the country. Additionally in 2023, 33% reported experiencing bullying. 19% of these experiences occurred on school grounds. There is substantial research linking bullying victimization to increased risk of suicide. 38% of Alaska's high schoolers reported they had one of their parents talk with them about what they are doing in school every day. Research shows that consistent parent-child communication about school is associated with lower risks of depression and suicidal ideation.

**Alaska Children's Trust**

[alaskachildrenstrust.org](http://alaskachildrenstrust.org) ▪ (907) 248-7676 ▪ [kidsfirst@alaskachildrenstrust.org](mailto:kidsfirst@alaskachildrenstrust.org)

Senate Bill 206 offers critical support to parents when their child is facing crisis and supports school leaders in ensuring parents are knowledgeable of incidences affecting their child. The legislation fills a real gap and gives schools the structure to act and parents the tools to respond, promoting safety in communities. We urge the committee to move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

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

Trevor J. Storrs  
President & CEO  
Alaska Children's Trust

**Alaska Children's Trust**

[alaskachildrenstrust.org](http://alaskachildrenstrust.org) • (907) 248-7676 • [kidsfirst@alaskachildrenstrust.org](mailto:kidsfirst@alaskachildrenstrust.org)

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sen. Löki Tobin  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2026 10:46 AM  
**To:** Teresa Wrobel  
**Cc:** Senate Finance Committee; Trevor Storrs; Jordan Marshall  
**Subject:** Re: Support for SB 206 - School Suicide Policies; Firearm Storage

Thank you Teresa,

I deeply appreciate the support.

@lgtobin

Löki Gale Tobin, MA (*she/her*)  
(*Pronounced: Lew-key*)

Alaska State Senate, District I  
Education Committee Chair  
Transportation Committee Vice-Chair  
Stay in touch at [lgtobin.substack.com](http://lgtobin.substack.com)

On Apr 13, 2026, at 7:23 AM, Teresa Wrobel <[twrobel@alaskachildrenstrust.org](mailto:twrobel@alaskachildrenstrust.org)> wrote:

Good morning,

Please see the attached for the Alaska Children's Trust's support for Senate Bill 206 - School Suicide Policies; Firearm Storage. Thank you for your consideration for this important legislation!

Best regards,

<Outlook-  
eklba0zw.gif> Teresa Wrobel  
Project Director, Policy & Advocacy  
O [907-202-9325](tel:907-202-9325)  
C [907-687-0147](tel:907-687-0147)  
6591 A Street, Ste. 110, Anchorage, AK 99518  
[alaskachildrenstrust.org](http://alaskachildrenstrust.org)

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Together we can prevent  
child abuse and neglect

<Outlook- <Outlook- <Outlook-  
facebook.gif> blog.gif> instagram.gif>

**RE: Support for SB 206 – Firearm Safe Storage Grant Fund**

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

The Center for Safe Alaskans strongly supports SB 206 to establish a statewide firearm safe storage grant fund and expand awareness efforts in Alaska schools. This legislation will help ensure that practical, lifesaving firearm safety education reaches communities and households across the state.

Suicide risk increases when lethal means are easily accessible. While suicide is complex and influenced by multiple factors—including untreated mental health conditions—the presence of a firearm in the home significantly elevates risk. Firearms are the most common and most lethal method of suicide, with 85–90% of attempts resulting in death.

Alaska continues to experience some of the highest firearm suicide rates in the nation. In 2023, the state ranked among the highest for firearm suicide and had the fifth-highest gun death rate overall. Disparities are particularly severe among American Indian and Alaska Native populations, underscoring the need for targeted, culturally responsive prevention strategies.

Firearms are also the leading cause of death for Alaska youth ages 1–17, and they contribute to the high lethality of domestic violence incidents. These realities highlight the urgent need for increased education and safe storage practices.

SB 206 builds on proven, evidence-based approaches. National partnerships between the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the National Shooting Sports Foundation have successfully distributed safe storage and suicide prevention materials through thousands of firearm retailers and instructors. This bill would expand access to these resources statewide.

Research shows that creating time and distance between a person in crisis and a firearm can save lives. Temporary, voluntary safe storage provides a critical window for intervention and support.

SB 206 is a practical, evidence-informed investment that can reduce preventable deaths and strengthen safety across Alaska communities.

Sincerely,  
Marcia Howell, Executive Director, Center for Safe Alaskans



**ALASKA  
BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION**

April 12, 2026

Senate Finance Committee  
Re: Support for SB 206

Dear Co-Chairs Hoffman, Olson, Stedman and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Alaska Behavioral Health Association (ABHA) is a statewide trade association representing community behavioral health providers across Alaska, including organizations that deliver mental health, substance use disorder, and integrated behavioral health services in urban, rural, and frontier communities. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on SB 206.

Alaska continues to face one of the highest suicide rates in the country, and youth suicide remains a serious public health concern with profound impacts on families and communities across our state. Within ABHA's leadership, this issue is informed by personal experience, including the loss of a close family member to suicide involving a firearm.

ABHA appreciates the intent of SB 206 to strengthen school-based suicide prevention and to reduce access to lethal means during periods of crisis. Reducing access to lethal means is a well-established, evidence-informed strategy. The proposed safe storage grant program represents a practical investment that can support families in taking protective steps when it matters most.

ABHA supports parent notification when a student is at risk of suicide, but we want to emphasize that implementation must be handled carefully. Policies should include clear, trauma-informed protocols that preserve student trust and ensure youth continue to seek help. We also recommend that districts adopting notification policies establish clear referral pathways to local behavioral health providers, so that families are connected to appropriate care as soon as risk is identified. Schools cannot manage suicide risk alone, and timely access to clinical support is essential.

ABHA and its member organizations stand ready to partner with the state and school districts to support coordinated, community-based suicide prevention efforts across Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Victoria Kildal, PsyD, LPCS, CDCS, ABHC | Chief Executive Officer  
Lance Johnson | Chief Operating Officer  
Alaska Behavioral Health Association



Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp 70 Glacier Valley  
P.O. Box 20212  
Juneau, AK 99802

April 1, 2026

Re: Support for CS for Senate Bill No. 206 (HSS) – “An Act relating to parental notification of harassment, intimidation, or bullying involving students and threats of suicide by students; and establishing the firearm safe storage grant fund.”

Dear Co-Chairs Hoffman, Olson and Stedman, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

On behalf of Glacier Valley Camp #70 of the Alaska Native Sisterhood (ANS), we encourage you to support the CS for SB 206, which will support school districts in providing safe gun storage devices and life-saving information to families, with a focus on youth in crisis.

Glacier Valley Camp #70 of ANS, and the Grand Camp of the ANS and Alaska Native Brotherhood, have previously adopted resolutions supporting secure firearm storage, and we support this current bill to provide such information and support to families of struggling students.

We have seen the tragic statistics on suicide and gun violence that Alaska families have suffered from for too long:

- Guns are the leading cause of death of Alaska’s children and teens.
- Alaska has the third highest rate of gun suicide in the US – a rate more than double the national average. Public health data shows that the risk of suicide by gun is high for Alaska’s youth.
- Alaska Natives suffer the highest gun suicide rate by race in Alaska.
- Alaska’s 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that nearly a quarter of high school students (22.6%) in Alaska had seriously considered suicide in the past year. Among these students who had considered suicide, 58.6% said they could access a loaded gun.
- SB 206 will save lives by making it more difficult for youth to access a loaded gun – providing time between suicidal thought and action. Suicide attempts using a gun are fatal 9 times out of 10. Research shows that more than 90% of people who survive a first suicide attempt do not go on to die by suicide in the future. But, if their first attempt is with a gun, they do not usually get the benefit of that second chance at life.
- Goal #3 of *Alaska’s Statewide Suicide Prevention Plan for 2023-2027* prioritizes reducing access to lethal means, including guns, during times of crisis. SB 206 will help implement this state-approved plan.

We encourage the legislature take aggressive action this session to address this crisis.

SB 206 is a measured step in this direction. It will allow (not mandate) schools to provide information and support to parents or guardians of students at risk (from bullying, intimidation, harassment, or threat of

suicide), including suicide prevention and crisis intervention resources, including information on how to: 1) obtain a suicide risk screening or assessment, 2) limit a student's access to firearms and lethal medications, 3) securely store firearms, ammunitions, and lethal medications, including in a safe storage device, and 4) request a free safe storage device from the firearm safe storage grant fund established by this bill. The firearm safe storage grant fund will consist of money appropriated to the fund, grants received, and donations, and shall be used to purchase and distribute the devices at no cost to school districts or to hunter or firearm safety programs administered by a school district.

Please support the passage of SB 206. It is a reasonable measure that does not take anything away from responsible gun owners. It empowers schools to give families tools and information so they can support their children in crisis and avoid the heartbreak of losing their loved one.

Thank you for your consideration and for your valuable service to all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_, President  
Patricia Walker  
Glacier Valley Camp #70  
Alaska Native Sisterhood

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Elizabeth Roll <Elizabeth\_Roll@ykhc.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 03, 2026 2:11 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support of Senate Bill 206

April 3, 2026

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

On behalf of the Alaska Academy of Family Physicians (AKAFP), I write to express our strong support for Senate Bill 206, establishing a Firearm Safe Storage Grant Fund.

As family physicians, we care for patients and families across Alaska and see firsthand the devastating impact of youth suicide. Safe firearm storage is a proven, practical strategy to reduce access to lethal means during moments of crisis and can save lives without infringing on responsible ownership.

SB 206 provides a thoughtful, community-based approach by equipping school districts to distribute secure storage devices directly to families. This approach supports prevention, promotes safety, and aligns with our commitment to protecting the health and well-being of Alaska's youth.

We respectfully urge your support for SB 206.

Elizabeth Roll MD- Alaska Academy of Family Medicine  
Kristen Lee, MD  
AKAFP President

\*The Alaska Academy of Family Physicians represents over 300 active physicians in AK, with a total membership of 441 students, residents and physicians.

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President Kristin Lee, MD Soldotna	President-Elect Roxanne Jones, MD Anchorage	Sec/Tres Jennifer Wooley, MD Soldotna	1 Vice President Megan Aspelund, DO Wasilla	Past President Margaret Cosentino, DO Anchorage
2 Vice President Ellen Hodges, MD	3 Vice President Jeremy Wood, MD	Delegate Shawn Vainio, MD	Delegate Elizabeth Roll, MD	Alternate Delegate Shawn Vainio, MD

## **Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Becky Judd <bjudd.sbs@smallstones.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 05, 2026 5:13 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support SB 206

Dear Senators Hoffman, Olson, Stedman, Merrick, Kiehl, Kaufman, and Cronk

I strongly urge you to support and pass SB 206 out of the Finance committee.

I have lived in Alaska for over 40 years and worked in the education, health & social services fields inside and outside of state government. I have watched the deep pain of suicide among our friends and neighbors in rural and urban Alaska, often using medications or guns. This bill offers a common-sense approach to gun safety. It does not infringe on our 2nd amendment rights to own a gun.

Please support SB 206

Becky Judd  
6401 Italy Circle  
Anchorage AK 99516

907 301-9725

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Cathleen Rolph <cathleenrolph@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 26, 2026 2:16 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support /SB206

# Alaskans Support SB 206 to Prevent Youth Suicide

Dear Alaska State Legislator,

We urge you to support Senate Bill 206, which would establish a Firearm Safe Storage Device Grant Fund. The bill will result in safe firearm storage devices (such as lockboxes and cable locks) being provided free to Alaska's school districts to distribute to families upon request, with priority for families of at-risk youth, and support education on the importance of secure firearm storage as a proven suicide prevention strategy.

Alaska's youth are at high risk of suicide by firearm. Alaska's 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that nearly a quarter of high school students (22.6%) in Alaska had seriously considered suicide in the past year. Among these students who had considered suicide, 58.6% said they could access a loaded gun, with 26% able to do so within ten minutes.

SB 206 will save lives by making it more difficult for youth to access a loaded gun – providing critical **time** between suicidal thought and action. Suicide attempts using a gun are fatal nine times out of ten. Research shows that more than 90% of people who survive a first suicide attempt do not go on to die by suicide in the future. But, if their first attempt is with a gun, they do not usually get the benefit of that second chance at life.

Alaska's Statewide Suicide Prevention Plan for 2023-2027 (Goal #3) prioritizes reducing access to lethal means, including guns, during times of crisis. SB 206 will implement this state-approved plan.

SB 206 is supported by statewide and regional organizations that are dedicated to the health and well-being of Alaska's youth, families, and communities, and that **represent thousands of Alaskans** across the state concerned about the high prevalence of gun suicides among our youth. Supporting organizations include the Alaska Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Alaska Moms Demand Action, Association of Alaska School Boards, Alaska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Alaska Academy of Family Practice Physicians, Alaska Children's Trust, Center for Safe Alaskans, Alaska Public Health Association, Alaska Native Sisterhood Glacier Valley Camp 70, Alaska League of Women Voters, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Alaska Behavioral Health Association, NAMI Juneau, and JAMHI Health and Wellness.

Too many young friends and loved ones have died by firearm suicide, impacting our communities for generations. Please take a meaningful step to protect the lives of Alaskan youth by moving SB 206 forward.

Cathleen Rolph

Soldotna, Alaska

99669

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Marian Clough <mcloughak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 24, 2026 11:44 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Re: Support for SB 206

On Fri, Apr 24, 2026 at 9:56 AM Marian Clough <[mcloughak@gmail.com](mailto:mcloughak@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Honorable Members of the Alaska Senate Finance Committee:

I am Marian Clough, have lived in Alaska for 43 years, am a grandmother and a gun owner writing in support of Senate Bill 206.

This bill's intent is to save the lives of Alaskans by reducing suicides and gun violence. I urge you to base your consideration of SB206 on the facts and the truth.

Thank you for your public service, your hard work as Alaska State Senators, and your consideration in moving SB206 forward.

Sincerely,

Marian Clough

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Teri Inch - she, her, hers <inchteri@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 25, 2026 10:47 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support for SB 206

Please support this gun lock method. I wish it were a law requiring all guns to be lock up, and unloaded, plus ammunition locked separate. But this bill is in the right direction.

Version A sounds like only a School District could identify students who are at risk, and notifying the parents. I would like other organizations to identify persons at risk and hand deliver information about this program to parents, guardians, spouse, significant other, or children.

Thank you for your attention in this matter of life and death.  
Teri Inch 99504

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To listen is to lean in, softly, with a willingness to be changed by what we hear. –Mark Nepo  
Teri Inch - Creation Justice Care Coordinator UMC Alaska

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Mary Schallert <m.schallert64@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 26, 2026 12:52 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** SB 206

Please support SB 206

Thank you,  
Mary Schallert,

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Cathleen Rolph <cathleenrolph@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 26, 2026 2:11 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Please Pass SB 206

## Alaskans Support SB 206 to Prevent Youth Suicide

Dear Alaska State Legislator,

We urge you to support Senate Bill 206, which would establish a Firearm Safe Storage Device Grant Fund. The bill will result in safe firearm storage devices (such as lockboxes and cable locks) being provided free to Alaska's school districts to distribute to families upon request, with priority for families of at-risk youth, and support education on the importance of secure firearm storage as a proven suicide prevention strategy.

Alaska's youth are at high risk of suicide by firearm. Alaska's 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that nearly a quarter of high school students (22.6%) in Alaska had seriously considered suicide in the past year. Among these students who had considered suicide, 58.6% said they could access a loaded gun, with 26% able to do so within ten minutes.

SB 206 will save lives by making it more difficult for youth to access a loaded gun – providing critical **time** between suicidal thought and action. Suicide attempts using a gun are fatal nine times out of ten. Research shows that more than 90% of people who survive a first suicide attempt do not go on to die by suicide in the future. But, if their first attempt is with a gun, they do not usually get the benefit of that second chance at life.

Alaska's Statewide Suicide Prevention Plan for 2023-2027 (Goal #3) prioritizes reducing access to lethal means, including guns, during times of crisis. SB 206 will implement this state-approved plan.

SB 206 is supported by statewide and regional organizations that are dedicated to the health and well-being of Alaska's youth, families, and communities, and that **represent thousands of Alaskans** across the state concerned about the high prevalence of gun suicides among our youth. Supporting organizations include the Alaska Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Alaska Moms Demand Action, Association of Alaska School Boards, Alaska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Alaska Academy of Family Practice Physicians, Alaska Children's Trust, Center for Safe Alaskans, Alaska Public Health Association, Alaska Native Sisterhood Glacier Valley Camp 70, Alaska League of Women Voters, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Alaska Behavioral Health Association, NAMI Juneau, and JAMHI Health and Wellness.

Too many young friends and loved ones have died by firearm suicide, impacting our communities for generations. Please take a meaningful step to protect the lives of Alaskan youth by moving SB 206 forward.