

May 5, 2026

RE: HB 104 and follow up to hearing on May 4, 2026

Dear House Finance Committee:

Please accept my apologies for dropping my call from the hearing last evening. I was sorry to miss the opportunity to respond to the questions from bill sponsor Representative Mears and others on the committee. Please accept my written response, and my apologies for my untimely absence.

The address confidentiality programs (ACPs) I have worked with in other states function as a failsafe, far beyond the benefits of obtaining a private post office box or mail forwarding service. The laws establishing ACPs require that all state and local governments must accept their substitute address, which is not the case for general mail forwarding. The amount of security the program provides, where the confidential addresses are maintained in a single location (best practices would be offline), by limited staffing, not accessible to the public, means it cannot be searched, hacked, or otherwise made available to those willing to pay for it. Please keep in mind the people who make use of this service have gone through extraordinary means to protect their physical address. Obsessed stalkers actively search for their intended victims, are willing to pay private investigators to sleuth for them and are willing to pay third parties for information leading to them. Disbursing that confidential address to multiple third party vendors, who may hold no allegiance or legal responsibility to the victim, makes it more likely the information could be compromised.

When I say that people go to extraordinary measures, here are some steps Advocates would help someone take to be safer *before* ever enrolling in an ACP:

- Obtain a protective order, if it is safe to do so, in one jurisdiction. Also keep on hand any criminal no contact orders that exist.
- Relocation is generally a requirement of eligibility. At least in other states I have worked, one cannot qualify for ACP if choosing to remain in their current location. One presumes that physical location is already compromised or searchable in online databases. If one owns their home, that information is already available to search in online property databases – except in rare jurisdictions that allow owners to keep addresses confidential. Still, for-profit online sites can search through multiple databases to locate a physical location.
- The new physical location should not be shared with anyone but their most trusted people. Once a new location is identified, Full Faith and Credit laws can help to file relevant protective orders with courts in the new jurisdiction, while not alerting Respondents to the new location. Relocation generally requires leaving current employment and finding work in a new jurisdiction.

- Change one's phone number and make sure it is unlisted and unsearchable.
- Greatly diminish or delete all social media presence. If planning to maintain a social media presence, change one's handle to make sure it is not searchable. Delete all or most contacts, and slowly resume "friendships" with trusted sources under an assumed handle with no identifiable photos.
- Make sure no location services are authorized on any mobile devices for any member of the household.
- Utilize the address confidentiality program for any vital records, school enrollment, job search efforts, voting and DMV registration, and all other first class mail. It is possible to use the confidentiality program address to forward mail temporarily from a prior address, as one's physical location will be secure.
- Train children not to disclose their physical address, instead identifying a nearby secure "meeting or drop-off" location that does not undermine safety.
- Some survivors also go through the lengthy process of changing their and their children's names, and sometimes social security numbers, if they qualify for a complete identity change under federal law, due to a documented threat.
- Participants should expect a delay of one or three business days for their mail. The ACP cannot forward packages, mail addressed to a business, trust, or similar entity, periodicals, or marketing mail. These items will be returned to the sender. Some states will forward license plates and bank checks.
- Consider having packages mailed to a separate address from the actual physical address, such as a PO Box, as an added safeguard.

For these reasons, I fail to see people without a genuine need wanting to take advantage of the program. It is a necessary and potentially life-saving inconvenience for those who need it but would likely not appeal to those who do not.

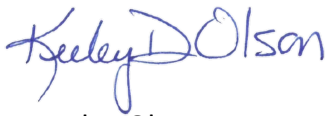
I believe there are cost effective ways to get the program operational that would not require multiple full time staff. As I mentioned yesterday, when checking in with my home state of Montana - which has a higher population base than Alaska, but a similarly high rate of violence against women - the duties of managing the ACP only takes a portion of one full time position to operate (with an alternate trained person available for redundancy).

As far as developing the program, since similar programs exist in forty-four states, there are lots of model policies and regulations to choose from. It does not require re-inventing the wheel. Program material samples are also widely available across the nation and could be easily translated to Alaska's needs. In reviewing the fiscal notes, there is reference to developing a server platform for confidential data. Confidential data is most secure when not connected to the internet, which

would not require a dedicated server. However, given most states already administer an ACP, it seems advisable to review their recommended best practices for maintaining confidential addresses.

I hope this information is helpful as you consider the potential of an ACP for Alaska. I would be happy to be available for any further questions you may have. I can be reached at STAR, (907) 276-7279. I would love to be of any service to you moving forward. Thank you for the opportunity to respond and thank you for all the service you provide to Alaskans.

Kindly,



Keeley Olson
Executive Director