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HB 265 Child Sexual Abuse Material February 2024

Please accept this statement as support for HB 265. The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) is Alaska's state coalition of victim services providers. Twenty-four programs across the state focus on services to victims/survivors of sexual assault, stalking and domestic violence.

Thank you to Representative Vance for advancing the terminology in Alaska's statutes to better convey the criminal nature of "child pornography" now under the bill aptly described as "child sexual abuse materials". Naming it child sexual abuse material explicitly ties the material to the source of the problem; the offender and the abuse that is being perpetuated against children to create it.

A 2015 statement by the U.S. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) showed of the images most frequently reported to NCMEC, 27% were of pubescent children, 64% were of pre-pubescent children; and 9% were of infants and toddlers. Of these images, 44% depicted oral copulation; 52% depicted anal and/or vaginal penetration; 60% depicted manual stimulation; 11% contained images depicting bondage and/or sadomasochism; and 11% depicted urination and/or defecation.

"Child pornography" suggests images of children posing in provocative positions, rather than suffering devastating sexual abuse. Children do not choose to engage in such acts, nor do they deserve to have such crimes filmed, distributed, and watched repeatedly by offenders. Naming the material child sexual abuse rightly names the actions taken to create these materials.

We urge the swift passage of this important piece of legislation.

Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, STAR | Hooper Bay Bay Haven | Bethel TWC | Cordova CFRC | Craig HOPE | Dillingham
SAFE | Emmonak EWS | Fairbanks IAC | Haines Becky's Place | Homer SPHH | Juneau AWARE |
Kenai LeeShore Center | Ketchikan WISH | Kodiak KWRCC | Kotzebue MFCC | Nome BSWG | Palmer AFS |
Petersburg WAVE | Seward Seward's Safe Harbor | Sitka SAFV | Unalaska USAFV | Utqiagvik AWIC | Valdez AVV