



March 4, 2024

Senator Kawasaki, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for Senate Bill 232: Voter Pre-Registration for Minors

Dear Chair Kawasaki and members of the Senate State Affairs Committee:

Native Peoples Action (NPA) is a statewide non-profit organization that strives to provide Alaska Native communities and our traditional values with a voice at all levels of policy making. The foundation of our work focuses on advocacy, education and information sharing, supporting local decision making, and building stronger unity among Indigenous communities to collectively address issues impacting our ways of life. NPA is writing to express our support for Senate Bill 232: Voter Pre-Registration for Minors.

We know the importance of voting and promoting civic engagement. Allowing minors of at least 16 years of age to pre-register to vote will make it so that the State of Alaska recognizes this important duty and will also improve access and increase voter turnout.

At least 18 other states throughout the country allow younger voters pre-registration abilities. It's time that Alaska joins in as well.

Our organization focuses on educational outreach to new and first-time voters. This includes individuals who recently turned 18. Among those we have connected with, many were confused about the application process and many felt the pressure of registering before the State's deadline. This gap in knowledge transcends party lines.

The ability to register to vote should be a consistent opportunity. We firmly believe that providing access at every entry point possible to the voting process should be taken, especially for youth living outside of urban centers.

Thank you for taking a leadership role in helping to activate Alaska's younger generations and working towards increasing civic engagement. We hope your colleagues will join you in this effort and bring SB 232 to final passage.

Gunalchéesh/Háw'aa/Quyana/Mahsi'/Baasee'/Maasee'/Dogedinh/Thank you,

Jackie Arnaciar Boyer
Deputy Director, Native Peoples Action