



WISH Building a Safer Community

PO Box 6552 Ketchikan, AK 99901

24-hour Crisis Line 1 (800) 478-9474 | Shelter (907) 225-9474

Business Office (907) 228-4099 | Fax (907) 225-2472

info@wishak.org

January 21, 2023

Honorable Representative Josephson
State Capital Room 432
Juneau, AK 99801

Honorable Representative Josephson,

I am writing this letter in support of House Bill 11 “An Act establishing the crime of assault in the presence of a child.”

At Women in Safe Homes (WISH) we bear witness daily to the devastating effect exposure to violence has on children. Children who are exposed to high levels of violence, either as a witness or victim, report the highest levels of depression, anger and anxiety. Adolescents exposed to high levels of violence reported higher levels of anger and depression. They also reported **higher rates of wanting to hurt or kill themselves** compared to adolescents in lower violence exposure group.

Thank you for sponsoring this very important piece of legislation.

Agnes Moran
Executive Director
Women In Safe Homes



Member of the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault