

Joe Hayes

From: Susan A <susan.allmeroth@alaska.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 7:32 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 229

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 229 (SB 229), which addresses gun violence protective orders in our state. As an engaged citizen and someone deeply concerned about public safety, I believe that this legislation is a crucial step toward preventing gun-related tragedies.

The provisions outlined in SB 229 are well-crafted and balanced, aiming to protect both individual rights and community safety. Here are some reasons why I endorse this bill:

Enhancing Public Safety:

SB 229 establishes a process for issuing gun violence protective orders, allowing law enforcement and concerned family members to take preventive action when there is credible evidence of a threat.

By temporarily restricting an individual's access to firearms, we can prevent potential harm to themselves or others.

Due Process and Safeguards:

The bill ensures due process by allowing individuals subject to protective orders to present evidence and challenge the order during a court hearing.

This balance between public safety and individual rights is essential for a fair and effective system.

Central Registry for Protective Orders:

The creation of a central registry will streamline information sharing among relevant authorities, improving enforcement and coordination.

Support from Constituents:

I have spoken with fellow Alaskans who share my concern about gun violence. They believe that SB 229 is a necessary measure to protect our communities.

In conclusion, I urge you to support SB 229 and work toward its passage. By doing so, we can take meaningful steps to prevent gun-related tragedies and promote a safer Alaska for all residents.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I appreciate your dedication to public service and look forward to seeing SB 229 move forward.

Let's make our state safer for all of us and our children.

Susan Allmeroth
Two Rivers

Joe Hayes

From: Debbie Lowenthal <~~debbie.lowenthal@alaska.gov~~>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 9:31 AM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Matt Claman; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Löki Tobin
Subject: Please Support SB 229

Dear Senators,

I'm writing to you as a longtime Juneau resident and family of hunters. We have many guns locked away securely in our home. I am not anti-gun at all. I believe we can save lives if these extreme risk laws pass in Alaska. We have a problem with increasing behavioral health needs in our State and the second highest rate of gun suicide.

What I am asking you today is to support SB 229. We need to prioritize preventing gun suicide and violence in Alaska, and that starts with passing this bill. Extreme risk laws are one of the most powerful tools for preventing firearm suicides, mass shootings, and school shootings by creating a way to act before warning signs escalate into tragedies. Let's make our great State safer.

Thank you for taking the time to do what protects our communities, our youth, our schools and all Alaskans.

-Debbie Lowenthal
10065 N Douglas Juneau Alaska

Joe Hayes

From: Victoria OConnell Curran <victoria.oconnell@alaska.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 8:31 AM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Matt Claman; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Löki Tobin
Subject: Please support SB 229

I am Victoria Curran and have been a resident of Sitka for over 40 years. My life, like most people in Alaska has been sadly touched by gun suicide and homicide. As you know Alaska has the 2nd highest rate of gun suicide deaths and the 4th highest rate of gun deaths in the country. Guns are the most effective suicide method. Lawmakers should be doing everything they can to prevent this catastrophic violence. Currently over half of the U.S. population lives in a state with Extreme Risk laws. Let's join them! With 21 states and DC, including Florida and 5 other states with republican governors enacting Extreme Risk laws we are now able to use science to create effective policy. This is good governance. This science shows us that early intervention is the key to preventing gun suicide and school shootings. Family members and sometimes local law enforcement are the first to see warning signs when someone is in crisis that could pose a risk of gun violence to themselves or others. This is especially true in Alaska where our communities are small and close knit. Allowing family members or law enforcement to petition the court with evidence to obtain an order to separate guns temporarily from people at high risk has been proven to save lives. The science shows that at least 1 life is saved from suicide for every 10 ERPOs ordered . The ripple effect of just one gun death in our state is catastrophic – imagine what it would mean for individuals, families and communities if we could have prevented a dozen of these 125 gun suicides in Alaska last year. An ERPO can prevent mass shootings and school shootings as well – the benefit (humanity) of preventing even one would be immense. Please support SB229 – it is supported by good science and would be an effective policy. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Tory O'Connell Curran
Grateful to live on LÍngít Aaní

Joe Hayes

From: Catherine Ducasse <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 9:03 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Löki Tobin; Sen. Kelly Merrick
Subject: Support for SB 229

To Senate State Affairs Committee Members,

I reside in Senate District F and I am a constituent of James Kaufman. I am writing to you to express my support for SB 229. As a registered nurse, I view gun violence in our state and across the country as a public health matter. SB 229 will give an effective tool to concerned family members and law enforcement officers to prevent suicide or homicide through intervention *before* a crisis occurs. I urge you to support SB 229.

Sincerely,

Catherine Ducasse, RN
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Joe Hayes

From: Westley Cheryl R <cheryl@westleyranch.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 3:24 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Testimony for SB 229

Dear Senators,

I support the Extreme Risk Law for Alaska (HB 162/SB229) because I care about the lives of all Alaskans, especially those who are depressed, distressed, and hopeless. In 2014 my friend committed suicide with a gun. He felt at age 75 that life was no longer worth living, grabbed his gun and ended his life. If the handgun had not been readily available, if the family could have alerted authorities to the danger he was in and the gun removed, maybe he would still be here. I also worked with a youth program in Dillingham and arrived to work one morning to find a 16-year-old with access to a gun had killed himself the night before. An Extreme Risk Law might have been able to intervene to protect his life. Alaska has such a high rate of gun suicides. And Alaskans have readily available guns. I urge lawmakers to add one more tool to try and prevent the loss of life through suicide. Thank you!!!

Cheryl Westley
2020 Muldoon Rd, Unit 213
Anchorage, AK 99504

Joe Hayes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 2:01 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Matt Claman; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman; Senator.bill.wielochowski@akleg.gov; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Löki Tobin
Cc: Sen. Forrest Dunbar
Subject: Written Testimony: SUPPORT SB229

Senate State Affairs Committee Members:

Please accept this as my written testimony in support of the firearm safety bill / Extreme Risk Law SB 229. This bill would allow family members or law enforcement to seek a court order to temporarily remove firearms from those who are showing signs of harming themselves or harming others. This could make a huge difference in preventing firearm suicides, mass shootings or school shootings. Alaska has the fourth highest rate of gun deaths in the country and the second highest rate of gun suicide deaths. Passing SB229 would establish a very needed extreme risk law for Alaska. Extreme risk laws are one of the most powerful legal tools for preventing firearm suicides, mass shootings and school shootings by creating a way to act before warning signs escalate into tragedy. Nearly half of the states have already enacted Extreme Risk Laws, and Alaskans will be safer when we enact one here.

Thank you,
Sheri Whitethorn, R.N.
Anchorage

Joe Hayes

From: Mary Schallert <m.schallert64@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 10:51 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 229

Please pass this most needed bill for our state. too many people in this state have died unnecessarily from guns. Death from firearms just doesn't happen with anywhere near the same frequency in countries that have common sense gun laws. statistics don't lie. I am a lifelong voter, I have lived in Alaska since 1977, it is way past time for some common sense about gun safety.

Please pass SB 229

Sincerely,
Mary Schallert
lifelong voter

Joe Hayes

From: Marian Clough <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 9:49 AM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Matt Claman; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Löki Tobin; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson
Cc: Rep. Andy Josephson
Subject: Fw: Support for SB 229

Dear Senator Kawasaki:

Thank you so much for continuing the public hearing on SB 229 until Thursday, May 2 on this very important bill. Your courtesy for doing so is very much appreciated.

Attached below is my written testimony which I sent on Monday but has not been included in the "Documents" section for SB 229. Thank you for your help to make it part of the public record.

Sincerely,

Marian Clough

From: Marian Clough <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 10:34 AM
To: Senate.state.affairs@akleg.gov <Senate.state.affairs@akleg.gov>; Senator.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov <Senator.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Senator.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov <Senator.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Senator.Jesse.Bjorkman@akleg.gov <Senator.Jesse.Bjorkman@akleg.gov>; Senator.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov <Senator.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Senator.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov <Senator.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>
Cc: Senator.Loki.Tobin@akleg.gov <Senator.Loki.Tobin@akleg.gov>; Senator.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov <Senator.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov>; Representative.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov <Representative.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support SB 229

Dear Honorable Senator Kawasaki and Members of the Alaska Senate State Affairs Committee:

I am Marian Clough, of Auke Bay Alaska, have been an Alaskan resident for 41 years, have children and grandchildren living in this beautiful state who are your constituents in Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Juneau.

Thank you for taking the time to bring forth SB 229 for public testimony, a bill I fully support. Realizing your schedule is incredibly packed with the end of session looming and the hundreds of bills you see, I thank you for opening the dialog to this extremely important topic – HOW TO SAVE LIVES -- with the epidemic of gun violence we face.

We all know the staggering horrific statistics of gun violence and we need to find solutions. Even Florida, a Republican trifecta state, is among the 21 U.S. States that has adopted "red flag"/ "extreme risk protective order" laws.

Why can't Alaska be included in these good statistics and do something to address gun violence -- to help find solutions? You as our legislators have the ability to move the needle in a positive way for all Alaskans.

Joe Hayes

From: Landa Baily <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 3:14 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Cc: Sen. Löki Tobin
Subject: SB 229 PLEASE HEAR AND SUPPORT

Dear members of the Senate State Affairs Committee:

Please hear and pass out of committee SB 229, and please also make sure it is before the full Senate in the next day or two, so that the House can hear it in committee(s) and also pass this legislation.

Thank you.

Landa Baily
Homer, Alaska