



**Public Safety Employees Association, Inc.**  
***"Representing Alaska's Finest"***  
**A.F.S.C.M.E. Local 803**



March 28, 2025

Rep. Andrew Gray  
Alaska State Capitol  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Representative Gray,

On behalf of the Public Safety Employees Association, I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 101, which seeks to raise the age of consent in Alaska to 18. The alarming statistics surrounding sexual violence in our state highlight an urgent need for legislative action to protect our youth from exploitation and abuse.

As you noted in your sponsor statement, Alaska has the highest rate of rape in the United States and one of the highest rates of child sexual assault. These figures are unacceptable, and the current age of consent law creates a dangerous legal loophole that puts our teenagers at further risk. By allowing individuals as young as 16 to legally consent to sexual activity, we are inadvertently complicating prosecution for those who prey on our vulnerable youth.

House Bill 101 is a critical step toward closing this gap and creating a safer environment for all minors in Alaska. By raising the age of consent to 18, we can strengthen protections for young people and ensure that survivors are not burdened with the difficult task of proving lack of consent in court. The inclusion of a close-in-age exemption demonstrates a balanced approach, allowing for consensual relationships among peers while still prioritizing the safety of our youth.

Additionally, aligning Alaska's laws with those of other states that have successfully implemented similar measures is essential. It sends a clear message that we take the protection of our children seriously, and we will not tolerate exploitation in any form.

We urge all members of the legislature to support House Bill 101 and work towards a safer future for Alaska's youth. Together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of those who are most vulnerable in our communities.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charisse Millett".

Charisse Millett  
Executive Director  
Public Safety Employees Association