



December 26, 2017

Representative Harriet Drummond  
120 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 3  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Drummond,

I am the Executive Director of Abused Women's Aid In Crisis, Inc. (AWAIC). I am writing to you regarding HB 214, 'An act renaming a portion of the Alaska Safe Children's Act as Bree's Law'.

ASCA was passed in 2015 and provided that a curriculum of healthy relationships, boundaries and dating relationships be created by participating school districts for grades kindergarten through twelfth grade. This act was passed to ensure that children and youth have the information to make healthy choices in life regarding their relationships with others. This is a critical step in stopping the cycle of violence in our communities.

A key piece of the curriculum is specifically about dating violence. AWAIC collaborates with the Anchorage School District by presenting to youth in the seventh and eighth grade. This part of the ASCA is taught at a critical age when youth are developing their first dating relationships. This message is reinforced throughout their high school curriculum.

Bree Moore never had someone come to her high school and talk to her about red flags of dating or the escalation of violence in abusive relationships which can lead to the victim's death, as in Bree's relationship. No one told her parents about what an abusive relationship looks like. They didn't know.

Women ages 16 to 24 experience the highest per capita rates of intimate violence.

The dating violence section of the ASCA curriculum speaks to the issues that Bree didn't get in high school and that her parents didn't hear about until it was too late. Bree Moore was murdered by her boyfriend on June 26, 2014.

AWAIC is advocating that the section about dating violence be renamed as Bree's Laws Program and Bree's Laws Activities. AWAIC feels this change humanizes this issue and this piece of the curriculum. It will incorporate the real life story of how one family learned about the harsh end of abusive relationships. AWAIC hopes that this recognition will be the personal message that will make an impact on Anchorage and Alaska students.

AWAIC supports the passage of HB 214.

Best regards,

Suzi Pearson  
Executive Director