



Standing
Together
Against
Rape

Crisis Intervention Advocacy Education Prevention

March 27, 2018

RE: Support for HB 214 (Bree's Law)

Dear Legislators:

Thank you for the opportunity to support this proposed legislation. Thank you to the bill sponsor, Representative Harriet Drummond.

Over the last twenty-five years, federal and state legislation has been passed in the name of a victim of crime as a memorial, while making drastic changes in response to violent crime. Multiple federal laws have mourning parents to thank for their advocacy on behalf of their murdered children:

- Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act (1994)
- Megan's Law (1996)
- Amber Alert (1996)
- Pam Lychner Sexual Offender Tracking and Identification Act (1996)
- The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act (2006)
- International Megan's Law (2016)

In 2015, Erin Merryn visited Alaska and shared her story of surviving years of childhood sexual abuse, urging members of the Alaska Legislature to pass a law requiring schools to provide information to all Alaska children about child sexual abuse, and what to do if it happened to them or someone they knew. It also advocated training for school staff, to know how to handle a disclosure of abuse from a child.

Concurrently, the Alaska Legislature was hearing advocacy from Butch and Cindy Moore, parents of Bree Moore, about including dating violence prevention education in high schools throughout Alaska. Breanna Moore was fatally shot by her boyfriend in 2014.

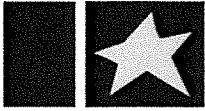
While Alaska eventually passed the combined legislation, it was implemented under another name, the Alaska Safe Children's Act, in 2017.

STAR's mission is to provide quality crisis intervention, education and advocacy services to victims of sexual assault, sexual abuse, their families and our community.

1057 W. Fireweed Lane
Suite 230
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Office Line 907.276.7279
Fax 907.278.9983
Web www.staralaska.com

24-Hour Crisis Line 907.276.7273
Relay Free By
Toll Free 800.478.8999



Standing
Together
Against
Rape

Crisis Intervention Advocacy Education Prevention

We believe youth across Alaska would be more open to information and more likely to take it to heart if the law referenced Breanna Moore. We can see no reason not to call the legislation "Bree's Law" in her memory, as the law would not exist without the tireless advocacy of her parents. Please consider renaming the portion of the Alaska Safe Children's Act "Bree's Law" to honor her memory, and make awareness efforts about teen dating violence and healthy relationships more accessible and relevant to the youth who may see some part of themselves or their friends in her.

And please, let us not forget, none of these laws would exist without abuse survivors and surviving family members of homicide victims making prevention a priority and advancing legislation in hopes of avoiding these atrocities from happening to others.

Sincerely,

Keeley Olson,
Executive Director

STAR's mission is to provide quality crisis intervention, education and advocacy services to victims of sexual assault, sexual abuse, their families and our community.

1057 W. Fireweed Lane
Suite 230
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Office Line 907.276.7279
Fax 907.278.9983
Web www.staralaska.com

24-Hour Crisis Line 907.276.7273
Toll Free 800.478.8999