



December 26, 2017

Representative Harriet Drummond
120 4th 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



ANDVSA

Alaska Network on Domestic Violence
& Sexual Assault

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15 February 2018

Dear Legislators:

The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault offers our full support of efforts to rename the section of the Alaska Safe Children's Act that refers to teen dating violence awareness and prevention education to **BREE'S LAW**.

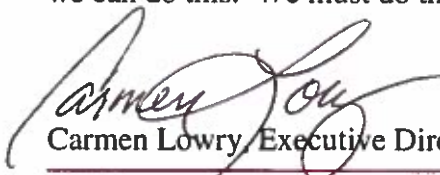
We want to first acknowledge that the increased awareness at this time on dating violence results from, in large part, Bree Moore's death. We offer our deepest condolences to the Moore's for their loss. We further acknowledge the immense courage and perseverance the Moore's have harnessed in order to not only highlight the problem of youth violence, but to keep Bree's spirit and life visible so we all remain mindful: we can prevent violence.

Many take great pride in the rich natural resources in this State, but there are no resources more valuable, more precious, than our young people. Yet the statistics for safety and well-being for young people don't correspond with this value. For example, in 2015, Alaska was recognized as the most "dangerous state in America." Alaska leads in the nation as the state with the highest rates of gun deaths, domestic violence, and rape. For teen-specific data, consider key findings from the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey:

- One in 10 students has experienced sexual violence (being forced by anyone to do sexual acts) during the past year;
- Bullying on school property has remained flat (23.3% in 2017), but electronic bullying (19.8%) has increased since 2011;
- There has been both a short- and long-term increase in the percentage of students who do not go to or from school because they feel unsafe at school or on their way to school (11.5% in 2017).

It is time for us to do more to safeguard our most precious resources. You have made a commitment to do so by first enacting the Alaska Safe Children's Act, and now recognizing the specific parts of the act that refers to teen dating violence awareness and education as **Bree's Law**.

No child should ever die as a result of violence: it is not right; it is not acceptable; it is devastating. Together, we can uphold a promise to young people that we will do our part as caring and conscientious adults to keep them safe and be responsible stewards of their development. It is no longer enough to say we can do this. We must do this. No child deserves to feel unsafe, to be bullied, to be harmed.



Carmen Lowry, Executive Director

Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, STAR Barrow AWIC Bethel TWC Cordova CFRC Dillingham SAFE Fairbanks IAC Homer SPHH
Juneau AWARE Kenai LeeShore Center Ketchikan WISH Kodiak KWRCC Kotzebue MFCC Nome BSWG
Seward SeaView Community Services Sitka SAFV Unalaska USAFV Valdez AVV



STELLER SECONDARY SCHOOL
2508 Blueberry Rd. Anchorage AK 99503
Phone: (907) 742-4950 – FAX: (907) 742-4966
Reed Whitmore, Principal
"Only the Educated are Free" --Epictetus

3/2/2018

Alaska State Legislature,

On Tuesday, February 20, Butch and Cindy Moore graciously presented Bree's story to the entire Steller student body. The presentation was impactful, moving, and motivating to our students and staff. We felt that the presentation was very humanizing and necessary considering the statistics in Alaska. Students are engaged in learning more about healthy relationships and the prevention of dating violence now that they can connect the consequences to a real person to which they relate. Students have voiced that they didn't understand what they were previously learning or why the school was covering the topic before the presentation by the Moore's. Students are now asking for more education on the topic and want to continue with the lessons taught last semester because they understand why the material is so important to learn and discuss. The students hope that the Moores present at other schools as well, because they think their story is really important for young people to hear.

The Steller staff and student body would like to support HB214 in its current state to name the education of relating to dating violence and abuse in the Alaska Safe Children's Act as Bree's Law for the following reasons:

- Students' connection to another relatable young person, the name on the bill, establishes an Alaskan story and a connection.
- Students' didn't understand what they were learning or why they were learning it before the presentation by the Moores. The appropriate name will lead to humanizing, and show significance of such a law.

I would also like to publicly thank the Moores for their time and willingness to share their story. We truly appreciate all that they are doing to keep our youth and adults safe.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

J. Reed Whitmore

Inspiring a community of independent, confident, self-directed learners.



Steller Secondary School

2508 Blueberry St. Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: (907) 742-4950 Fax: (907) 742-4966
Reed Whitmore, Principal

3/2/2018

Alaska Legislature,

My name is Rachel Curtiss. I am a senior at Steller Secondary School in Anchorage, Alaska. On Tuesday, February 20th, we saw a presentation by Butch and Cindy Moore, Bree Moore's parents. They told us about their daughter's life, jobs, relationships, and murder. There was not a student in that room who did not feel the weight of her death and the importance of the education. There was a power behind this presentation that cannot be found without the name attached to it. Earlier in the year, we did the first round of the Bree's Law education without hearing any of her story or even her name. Many of the students did not understand the value of the lesson, or the context of the story. During the presentation about Bree, every student paid rapt attention. I ask you, as a student who understands the value of this education, to vote to pass HB214 with Bree's name attached.

With Bree's name, the education becomes immediately more relatable and impactful to students. Just like the Amber Alert, Kendra's Law, and Megan's Law, the name allows us to look not only at the statistics, but at the effect of the education (or lack thereof) on a human level. I ask you to understand that there is power in Bree Moore and her story. I ask you to vote for the proper education of students so that they can avoid harmful relationships. I ask you to vote to pass HB214 as it is.

Rachel Curtiss



3/5/2018

The Honorable Alaska State Representative Harriet Drummond

State Capitol Room 108
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: HB 214, Sponsor Harriet Drummond, which names the 'Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Education' portion of The Alaska Safe Children's Act as *Bree's Law*.

Dear Representative Drummond,

The Victims for Justice Board of Directors fully supports HB 214. We believe formally renaming a portion of the Alaska Safe Children's Act, *Bree's Law*, will create much needed awareness around one of Alaska's most serious social issues, dating and domestic violence. Giving a face and a name to this portion of law will increase awareness of issues that affect teens and young women at alarming rates.

Victims for Justice (VFJ) serves victims of violent crime throughout the state. With domestic violence a prevalent issue that affects one in three Alaskan women, we are invested in programs that will educate our youth when it comes to making healthy relationship choices. Primary prevention is the key to drastically reducing intimate partner violence in Alaska.

Please pass HB 214 in its current form.

We need this life saving legislation.

Sincerely,

Victoria Shanklin
Executive Director



**ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM**

Roald Helgesen
ANTHC Chief Executive Officer
ANMC Administrator

March 9, 2018

The Honorable Harriet Drummond, Chair
House Education Committee
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Drummond:

On behalf of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), I write in support of House Bill 214, an Act renaming a portion of the Alaska Safe Children's Act as Bree's Law.

ANTHC is a statewide tribal health organization serving all 229 tribes and more than 166,000 Alaska Native and American Indian (AN/AI) individuals in Alaska. ANTHC and Southcentral Foundation co-manage the Alaska Native Medical Center, the tertiary care hospital for all AN/AIs in Alaska. ANTHC also provides a wide range of statewide public health, community health, environmental health, and other programs and services for Alaska Native people and their communities.

ANTHC believes formally naming the "Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Education" portion of The Alaska Safe Children's Act as "Bree's Law" will assist in raising awareness around dating and domestic violence, one of Alaska's most serious social issues. ANTHC recognizes the critical need to continue advocating for education and awareness on teen dating violence. HB 214 is an important step in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Roald Helgesen
Chief Executive Officer & Administrator

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
4000 Ambassador Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Main: (907) 729-1900 | Fax: (907) 729-1901 | anthc.org



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Education
& Early Development

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

801 West 10th Street, Suite 200
PO Box 110500
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0500
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TTY/TDD: 907.465.2815
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March 14, 2018

Dear Senate Education Committee:

House Bill 214, which renames the AS 14.30.356 portion of the Alaska Safe Children's Act as Bree's Law, and calls for district developed programs and activities undertaken and implemented to be called Bree's Law programs and Bree's Law activities, provides an opportunity to personalize one of our state's challenges.

Breanna "Bree" Moore was a young woman born and raised in Alaska, graduated from Dimond High School, and was a student at the University of Alaska Anchorage. She was a student athlete and took full advantage of all that Alaska has to offer. She was 20 years old when her life was cut tragically short by her boyfriend.

Adolescence is a time to help youth develop attitudes and beliefs that dating violence is unacceptable and develop healthy relationship skills that will help reduce the rates of violence in our state. The Department of Education is supportive of HB 214's proposal to put an Alaskan name and face to the issue of dating/domestic violence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Johnson", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Michael Johnson
Commissioner



Anchorage School District

Education Center

5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd. • Anchorage, AK 99504 • 907-742-4000 • www.asdk12.org

March 15, 2018

The Honorable Representative Harriet Drummond
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 108
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Drummond,

As the Superintendent of Anchorage School District (ASD), I am writing in support of the passage of HB 214. Passage of this legislation would rename the "Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Education" portion of *The Alaska Safe Children's Act* to "Bree's Law." Because of the *Act*, students are engaged in learning more about healthy relationships and the prevention of dating violence now that they can connect the consequences to a real person.

Bree Moore, a graduate of our District and for whom the *Act* was named, suffered abuse and was killed by her dating partner. By including her name in the *Act*, students will more readily identify with her circumstances, and we believe, be more likely to seek shelter from abusive relationships.

ASD thinks that naming Bree's Law formally in statute is an intricate part of communicating the value of healthy relationships to our youth and we support HB-214 in its current form. I want to thank you for the opportunity to share my support for your work.

Respectfully,

Deena M. Bishop, Ed.D.
Superintendent



March 22, 2018

The Honorable Harriet Drummond
House of Representatives
State of Alaska
State Capitol Building, Room 108
Juneau, AK, 99801

Dear Representative Drummond,

On behalf of Southcentral Foundation (SCF) and the 65,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people we serve, I write in support for HB 214: Bree's Law, Dating Violence program. This bill emphasizes prevention and awareness and will work to educate our youth about warning signs of dating violence and abusive behavior, while focusing on characteristics of healthy relationships.

Southcentral Foundation (SCF) is the Alaska Native tribal health organization designated by Cook Inlet Region, Inc. and eleven Federally-Recognized Tribes – the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Igiugig, Iliamna, Kokhanok, McGrath, Newhalen, Nikolai, Nondalton, Pedro Bay, Telida, and Takotna – to provide healthcare services to beneficiaries of the Indian Health Service (IHS) pursuant to a contract with United States government under the authority of the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) P.L. 93-638.

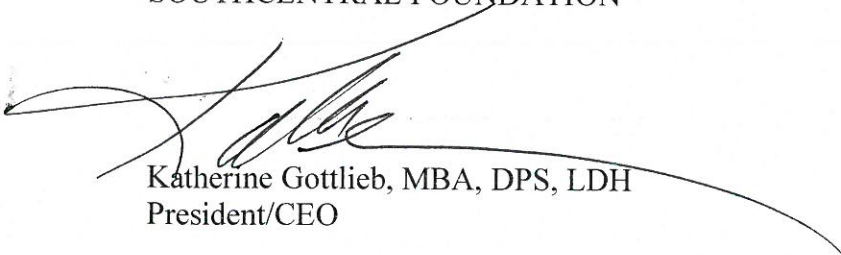
SCF has been working with communities for more than 15 years to help end domestic violence, child abuse, and child neglect in this generation through training and education. SCF's Family Wellness Warriors Initiative (FWWI) focuses on the Alaska Native and American Indian populations of Alaska, but all individuals, regardless of race, gender, or religion are encouraged to apply for our events.

I believe everyone has a story behind their eyes. A bill that has a face to it, whose premise is tied to story, creates opportunity for a greater connection for our community. There is power in story. Renaming portions of this bill to Bree's Law will connect our youth with a real-life story and encourage continued education and training for Alaska's most valuable resource, our youth.

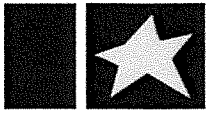
Thank you for the opportunity to provide my letter of support. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments. I can be reached at (907) 729-4938 or by email at katherineg@scf.cc.

Sincerely,

SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION



Katherine Gottlieb, MBA, DPS, LDH
President/CEO



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.

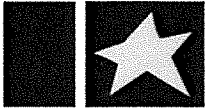
While Alaska eventually passed the combined legislation, it was implemented under another name, the Alaska Safe Children's Act, in 2017.

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
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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
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Anchorage, Alaska 99503

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