

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.

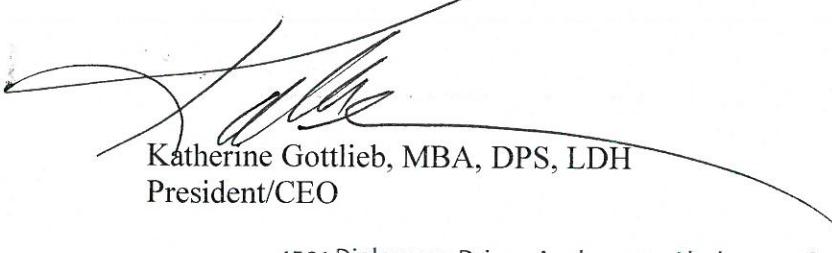
SCF has been working with communities for more than 15 years to help end domestic violence, child abuse, and child neglect in this generation through training and education. SCF's Family Wellness Warriors Initiative (FWWI) focuses on the Alaska Native and American Indian populations of Alaska, but all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