

**From:** Woodgate, Wayne  
**To:** [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Natasha Von Imhof](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#)  
**Subject:** HB 214  
**Date:** Friday, April 27, 2018 2:10:16 PM

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Alaska State Legislature,

As we creep into what may be the closing days of this year's legislative session, I ask that you move HB214 in its current state out of committee and to a final vote to name the education relating to dating violence and abuse in the Alaska Safe Children's Act to Bree's Law. This simple name change will affect the lives of young people across the state by giving them a name that they can relate to a just cause. As Alaska's current leaders recently legislating the mandatory requirement of instruction for teen dating violence for grades 7-12, it is important to remember that a determinant of good pedagogy is the responsibility of providing instruction that meets the needs of the learners. By continuing with the name of Alaska Safe Children's Act and even shortening it to ASCA, we are not building long-term relevant and reflective knowledge, preparing students for what actions to take when experiencing teen dating violence as victims or bystanders. Changing the name to Bree's Law humanizes the law which makes it relatable and easier to associate when students need to recall the instruction and act to potentially save their own lives or the lives of friends.

Students at Valdez High School recently had an opportunity to interact via Skype with Bree's parents, Butch and Cindy Moore. I went into the planning and implementation of this training with the same fervor I usually reserve for mandatory state requirements that pull my students' attention away from classroom learning and active engagement. After seating almost 200 students in the cafeteria and introducing our presenters, I was gratified to see my students raptly listening to the message and realizing that this was instruction beyond the curriculum that may genuinely make a difference. We all watched the video of Bree's life and I noted that she was very similar to many of the students at Valdez High School. I also noted, based on my many years working in rural Western Alaska, that she was also like many of the children that I had taught and many of the children that my children grew up in villages across the state. During the video, there are pictures of Bree holding a king salmon, snow machining, fishing, playing volleyball, hanging out with friends, and some with her baby niece in her arms. Students can relate to Bree and as they see the pictures of her they build a bond and connection to her and subsequently to the law protecting them from the tragedy that happened to her. I strongly urge you to support and pass Bree's Law this legislative session.

Thank you for your consideration.

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