

Data for Indigenous Justice PO Box 231226 Anchorage, AK 99523 www.dataforindigenousjustice.org

April 24, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing to ask you to support, prioritize, and move forward Kathleen's Law, HB170.

Data for Indigenous Justice is an organization that has documented cases of missing and murdered Indigenous relatives in Alaska. Through our work of storykeepers we have seen so many cases of injustice. One area of injustice that persists is people having knowledge of violent crimes and not coming forth. Our silence does not protect us. We need everyone's cooperation in taking on the disproportionate rates of violence occurring here in Alaska. Public safety has been an issue here across the state with far too many loopholes.

This bill is named after Kathleen Jo Henry, a beloved Alaska Native community member. Unfortunately, there are too many cases like Kathleen's where people know the details of violent crime and it delays and impedes justice. We need to stop this.

This legislation closes a dangerous gap in our laws and gives law enforcement the ability to hold people accountable for failing to report violent crimes. This is a public safety issue that affects all of us, and the bill comes at no cost to the legislature.

We need to pass Kathleen's Law now.

Sincerely,

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Dr. Charlene Aqpik Apok Executive Director Data for Indigenous Justice