

HB 170: REPORTING VIOLENT CRIMES

"KATHLEEN'S LAW"



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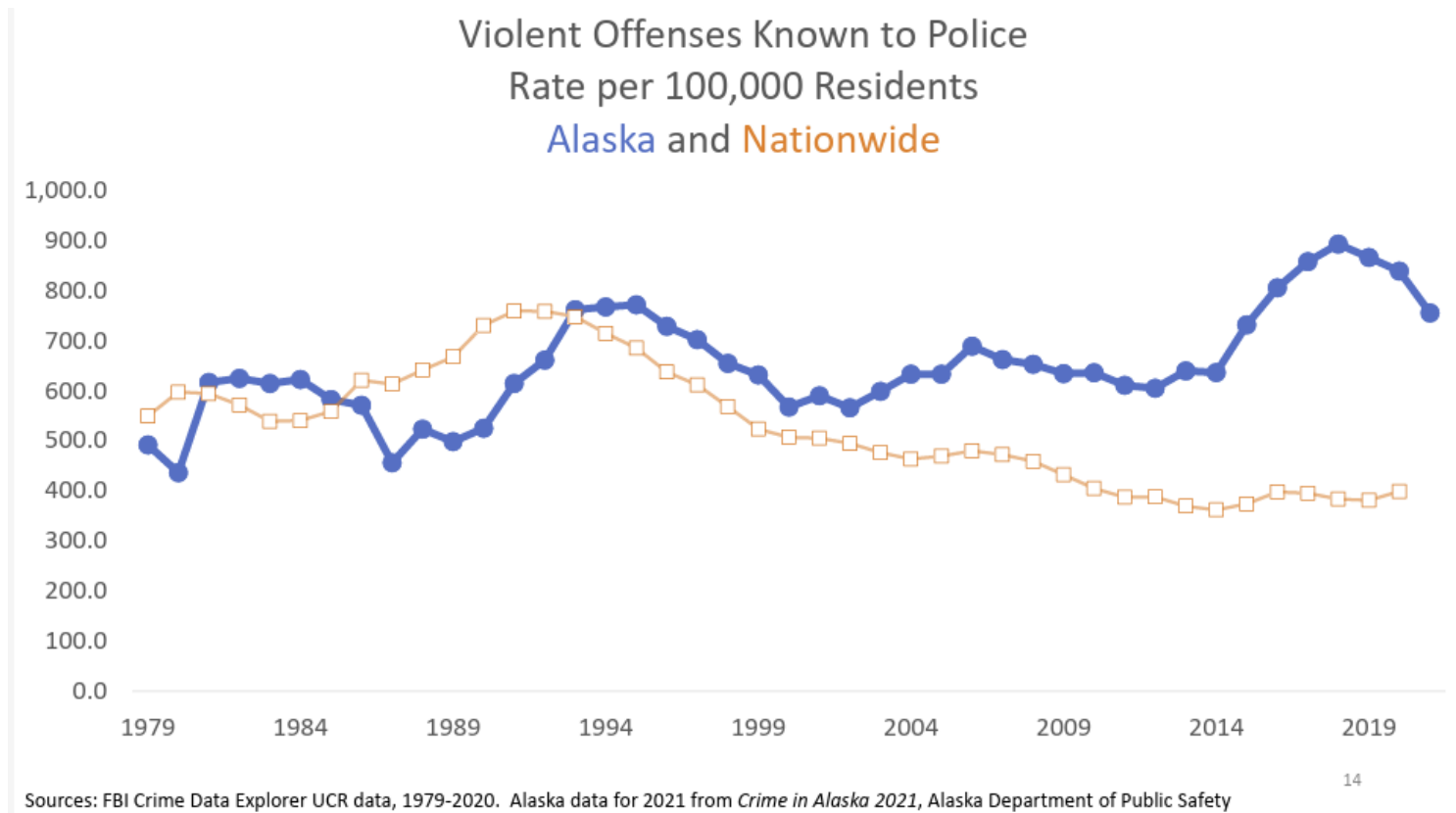
PURPOSE

- Increase penalties for failure to report violent crimes against adults
- Equip law enforcement with tools for prevention and data collection
- Promote accountability & justice across Alaska

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

- Section 1 amends AS 11.56.767 (d) changing failing to report a crime from a violation to a Class B misdemeanor
- Section 2 adds an applicability clause as amended by section 1 of this act which applies to offenses committed on or after the effective date of this Act. This means the State cannot retroactively charge a defendant

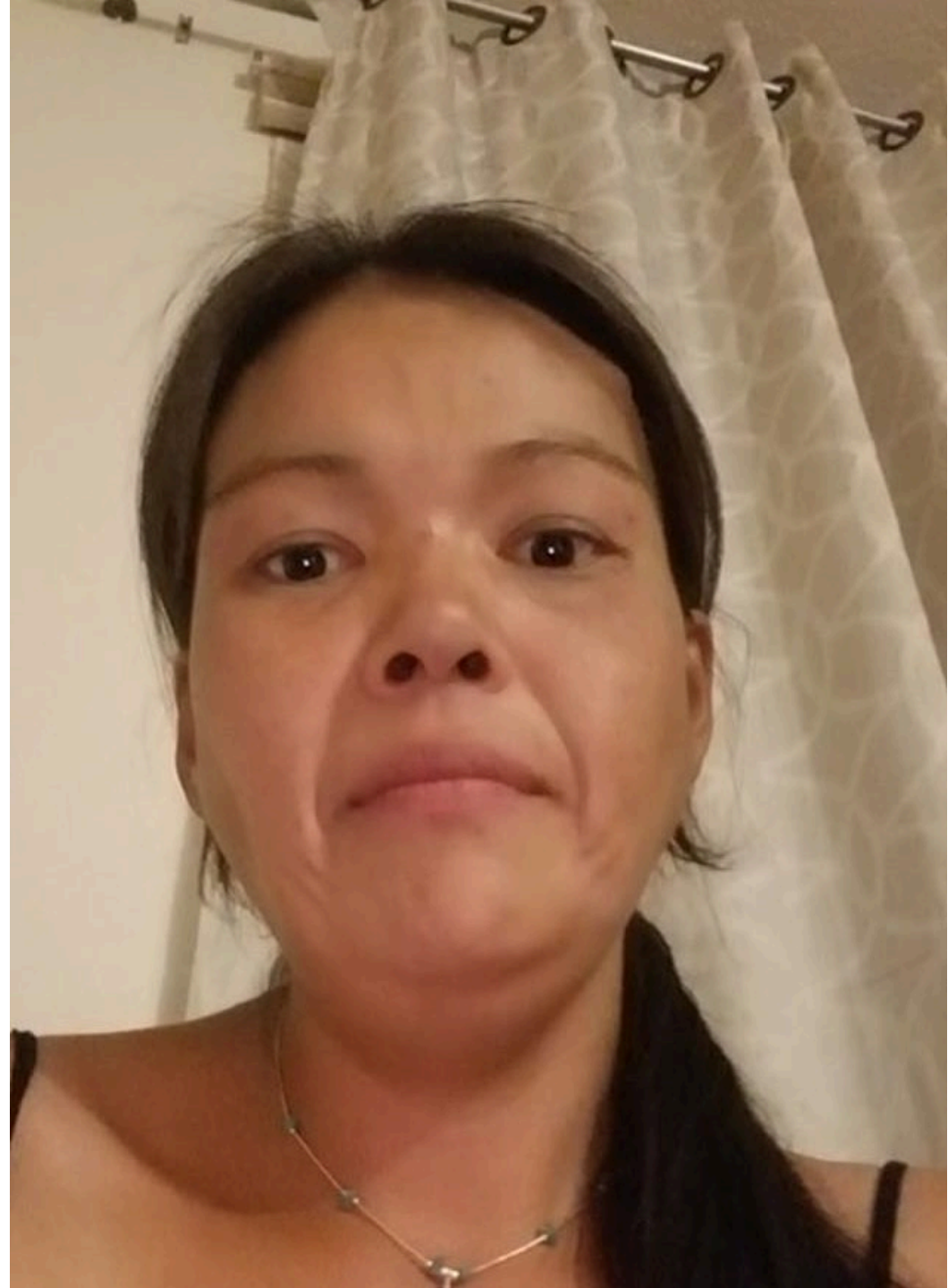
UNDERSTANDING VIOLENT CRIME IN ALASKA



KATHLEEN JO HENRY CASE

Kathleen Jo Henry was sexually assaulted and murdered in August 2019. Her killer was sentenced to 99 years for her torture and murder. Subsequent charges led to a total of 226 years.

The suspect showed her dead body to another individual, who failed to report the crime and remains free today.



CURRENT LAW

- The current penalty for not reporting a violent crime on an adult is a violation, with a fine up to \$500

HB 170 WHY IT MATTERS

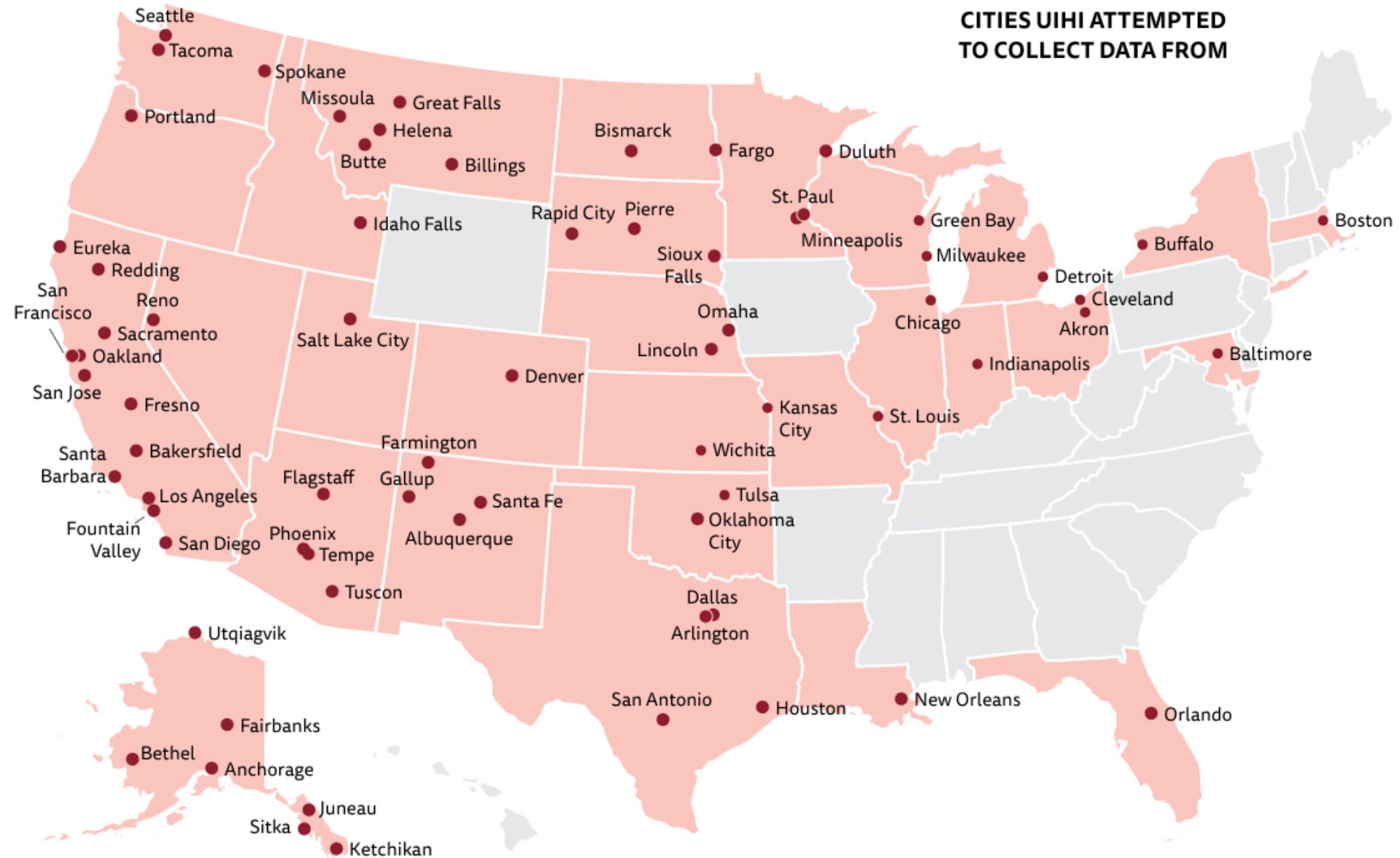


- HB 170 increases the current penalty to a Class B misdemeanor, punishable with a jail sentence up to 90 days and a maximum fine of \$2000
- With a higher penalty for perpetrators this bill would empower victims and survivors alike to report violent crime, possibly before escalating to death

MMIP OVERSIGHT & REPORTING



- The Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) collected data from 71 urban cities around the US highlighting the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman and Girls (MMIWG) crisis
- UIHI requested FOIA data from year 1900 to the present, but approximately two thirds of the cases identified were from 2010 to 2018⁴
- UIHI found there is a lack of quality data due to under reporting, racial misclassification, poor relationships between law enforcement and a lack of substantive relationships between journalists and American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Allowing Murdered Missing Indigenous People (MMIP) data to disappear in life, media and national data⁴



STATE SUPPORT SERVICES

PROGRAM & ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS

- Department of Law offers Victim-Witness Assistance, Victim-Witness Coordinators and a comprehensive victim's right handbook ¹
- The Department of Public Safety (DPS) offers the Victim Navigator Program which contains 7 positions around the state. The hub cities are Anchorage, Bethel, Fairbanks, Ketchikan, Mat-Su Valley, Kotzebue, Soldotna
- These paralegals serve as the primary point of contact to victim/witnesses of violent crimes ¹

COMPENSATION & LEGAL RESOURCES

- DPS also administers the Alaska Violent Crimes Compensation Board. VCCB provides crime victims compensation for financial losses that occur as a direct result of a violent crime ¹
- The Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault administers state-funded grants to local service agencies for crisis intervention ³

REFERENCES



¹https://www.ajc.state.ak.us/datacommission/docs/reports/DAC_2024_Annual_Report.pdf

²https://law.alaska.gov/departments/criminal/victims_assist.html

³ <https://dps.alaska.gov/CDVSA/Services>

⁴ <https://www.uihi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Missing-and-Murdered-Indigenous-Women-and-Girls-Report.pdf>