



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senator Löki Gale Tobin
Education Committee Chair

EDUCATION
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
JUDICIARY
TRANSPORTATION

SB 206

SCHOOL SUICIDE POLICIES; FIREARM STORAGE

SB 206 creates a firearm safe storage grant fund within the Alaska General Fund, to be administered by the Department of Public Safety (DPS). This grant fund will provide free firearm safe storage devices (including lockboxes, cable locks, and safes) to Alaskan families upon request.

This legislation allows school districts to adopt a plan to notify parents and guardians regarding incidences of harassment and bullying against their dependent child. It specifies that in this plan the school district shall provide parents and guardians with information on suicide prevention, safe storage devices, and how to access a free safe storage device from the firearm safe storage grant fund.

Suicide prevention experts emphasize that reducing access to lethal means — particularly for adolescents experiencing crisis — saves lives. Research shows that when firearms are stored locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition, the risk of youth suicide and unintentional injury declines significantly.

SB 206 directs school officials to report incidences of bullying and harassment of students to a Child Advocacy Center in addition to the appropriate school authority. Adding Child Advocacy Center reporting provides an additional resource where a child and non-offending caregiver can receive comprehensive services following a concern of abuse such as: sexual abuse, physical abuse, witnessing violence (such as domestic violence and homicide), and extreme neglect.

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WHILE IN SESSION

State Capitol / Juneau, AK 99801 / (907) 465-3704

WHILE IN ANCHORAGE

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