



## Alaska State Legislature

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### Representative Anna Fairclough – House District 17

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#### House Bill 21

#### **“An Act relating to the membership of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council.”**

House Bill 21 would simply increase the number of members appointed to the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council from 16 members to 17 members and create an age requirement for the youth member.

The additional member would be appointed by the Governor and would give representation on the council for members of our military. Suicide among our military is on the rise and having an individual familiar with the lives and challenges our military members face on a daily basis is crucial to their overall well-being.

The new member must be one of the following; discharged from, retired from, or engaged in active duty military service or someone who is a mental health provider, social worker, or other person actively providing a health care service to discharged, retired, or active military personnel.

House Bill 21 also changes the requirement for the youth member who is appointed to the council. Currently this appointee has to be enrolled in the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grade of a secondary school. This member would be changed allowing the youth to be 16 years of age when appointed, but not older than 24 years of age. This will allow our youth members to continue to serve beyond completion of their secondary school education and allow for continuity on the council.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. I appreciate your support of House Bill 21.

Below is the link to the FY2010 Annual Report from the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council:

[http://www.hss.state.ak.us/suicideprevention/pdfs\\_sspc/2010SSPCAnnualReport.pdf](http://www.hss.state.ak.us/suicideprevention/pdfs_sspc/2010SSPCAnnualReport.pdf)