

From: [Samantha Savage](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#); [Rep. Charisse Millett](#)
Subject: Please pass a clean version of Alaska Safe Children's Act
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 6:01:39 PM

I am writing to urge that you support a clean version of HB 44 (Erin's Law, the Alaska Safe Children's Act). Recent changes to the bill have added in language similar to SB 89, legislation that that would take important decisions about sexual

health education out of the hands of parents and educators and place them in the hands of politicians.

Sexual assault is an uncomfortable topic for everyone, especially when it is happening to children. The reality is that many Alaskan children are being assaulted, and the aftermath of that assault is one that children must deal with for the rest of their lives.

In public hearing after public hearing, our legislators have heard from Alaskans all over the state demanding action on HB 44. This bill would bring sexual assault awareness education to all students in Alaska who desperately need access to information to

protect themselves. Alaska's child sexual assault rates are six times the national average. In the first three months of this year alone, the Office of Children's Services received 783 reports of sexual assault.

HB 44 makes sense, but the new language added to it does not. Just like SB 89, this would limit students' access to reproductive health education and sexual assault awareness and prevention information. Parents deserve to have a say in the education their kids

have and shouldn't be ordered around by the state.

Trying to score political points by making it harder for students to get the sexual health education they need is no way to govern. Please support a clean version of HB 44, the Alaska Safe Children's Act. Thank you for your consideration.

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