



American Foundation  
for Suicide Prevention

## AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION – ALASKA CHAPTER

March 7, 2019

Representative Tarr  
State Capitol Room 128  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: **SB 10** (Kawasaki)/**HB 22** (Tarr)

Dear Representative Tarr:

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – Alaska Chapter is pleased to write you in support of SB 10/HB 22, to extend the termination date of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council until 2027. Established in 2001, the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council has served as an advisory council to the Legislature and Governor regarding suicide awareness and prevention. In 2018, the council released an updated 2018-2022 state plan, *Recasting the Net: Promoting wellness to prevent suicide in Alaska*.

The council serves the public interest by actively broadening the public's awareness of suicide prevention and coordinating the efforts of other suicide prevention entities including state agencies, regional groups, coalitions, and local communities. Overall suicide ranks as the fifth leading cause of death in Alaska, it is the first leading cause of death among residents ages 15-24 and the second leading cause of death among those 25-34. We must continue to let the council advise us on this public health problem and coordinate efforts across the state to save lives.

This Chapter of the American Foundation supports SB 10/HB 22

Sincerely,

James Biela

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Bethel, AK 99559

Lead Ambassador/Suicide Survivor Outreach Coordinator/  
National Public Policy board member