

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



## REPRESENTATIVE JOHN LINCOLN

### **Sponsor Statement**

#### **House Bill 14**

#### **Version R**

House Bill 14 (HB 14) classifies the act of ejaculating on a person without their consent as a sex crime and recognizes the serious nature of strangulation to the point of unconsciousness by classifying the act as first degree assault and including it in the list of aggravating factors for sentencing.

In the fall of 2018, a plea deal agreement illuminated the fact that ejaculating on a person without their consent could not be prosecuted as a sex crime in Alaska. This bill enhances sexual assault statutes by adding unwanted contact with ejaculate to the definition of sexual contact. Victim notification is also strengthened, by providing notification to all sex crime victims, rather than just felony victims.

HB 14 also acknowledges the seriousness of strangulation. Strangulation is prevalent in domestic violence incidences, and 56% of women murdered in Alaska in 2017 were killed by an intimate partner. A study published by the Journal of Emergency Medicine found that a prior non-fatal strangulation increases a woman's likelihood of becoming a homicide victim by 700%, and non-fatal strangulation preceded 43% of domestic homicides. This bill recognizes the gravity of strangulation as a precursor to future violent crimes.

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