

Letter of Support

Date: 2/12/2020

To the 31st Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801



Dear Honorable Senators and Representatives,

My name is Anthony Cravalho I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 101, sponsored by Senator Donny Olson. This bill will help establish "March 12 of each year as Ashley Johnson-Barr Day here in Alaska". Senate Bill 101 is a Bipartisan Bill with currently 12 sponsors from both parties.

Ashley Johnson-Barr Day is not just about remembering this sweet girl from Kotzebue. It is about raising awareness about Alaska's children's welfare and wellbeing and working together to address the challenges children face here in Alaska. Unfortunately, some of these challenges include sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and kidnapping. Additionally, for children survivors of sexual assault, many often deal with serious health and mental health problems that last into adulthood and affect even future generations.

For over 15 years, I have been an advocate and a worked on many funded grant proposals related to sexual assault and supporting support services including our local Child Advocacy Center and Family Crisis Shelter. It is often very depressing work with many sad stories. Yet, the story of what happened to Ashley Johnson-Barr, has been the saddest I have had to deal with. Her father is a friend, who was my sons special education aid many years back and there is no kinder man you can find.

It is because of my past work on issues of SA/DV and serving on the Kotzebue Advisory School Council, that I again ask you to support Senate Bill 101 to create Ashley Johnson-Barr Day, as it will help to recognize all victims, their families and survivors of sexual abuse. Moreover, it will help to bring other stories of sexual assault into the light. These stories will be hard to hear. But no matter how hard, people need to hear them as it will help continue to raise awareness of the widespread nature of this very evil issue of sexual abuse and assault that continue to affect Alaskan Native children.

Sincerely,

Anthony J Cravalho

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(907) 412-0427 / anthony.cravalho@maniilaq.org

