

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE CAPITOL
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SB 101 SPONSOR STATEMENT: ASHLEY JOHNSON-BARR DAY

“An Act establishing the twelfth of March as Ashley Johnson-Barr Day.”

SB 101 establishes March 12th as Ashley Johnson-Barr Day to commemorate the life of young Ashley Johnson-Barr, who was taken from this world too soon at ten years old.

In an unimaginable time of grief and loss, communities across the state and nation joined the family and friends of Ashley in support. While loss is overwhelming, there is comfort in knowing progress can be made in ensuring that other children will not encounter the same tragedy.

SB 101 aims to bring light surrounding tragedy. Establishing Ashley Johnson-Barr Day brings awareness surrounding violent crimes committed against children and highlights that individuals hold a moral responsibility to make sure Alaska’s children are protected. It is complementary to the annual Sexual Assault Awareness Resolution that passes the legislature every year. Additionally, it brings awareness to the missing and murdered indigenous women across North America. 84.3% of Alaska Native/Native American women experience violence in their lifetime, a percentage we desperately need to reduce.

Honoring Ashley’s life by wearing her favorite color purple, volunteering for child abuse prevention organizations, and celebrating the liveliness and youthfulness of Alaska’s children are all appropriate ways to spend Ashley Johnson-Barr Day.