

February 13, 2020

Kristen Dau
PO Box 166
Kotzebue, AK 99752

The Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Legislatures,

I would like to express my support for Senate Bill SB-101, which was introduced on March 29, 2019 by Senator Donny Olson. This bill would establish March 12 of each year as Ashley Johnson Barr Day, in honor of the 10 year old girl who was kidnapped, raped and brutally murdered in Kotzebue in the fall of 2018. This tragic event made headlines across the nation and put a spotlight on the harsh statistics of rape in rural Alaska, where the most common age of victim is 13 and the common age of suspect is 29. Sadly, most of the victims are related to their suspects, and because of the culture it is commonly swept under the rug. Families tend to look the other way and try to keep problems such as child molestation a secret hoping that it won't happen again instead of causing conflict within their families.

Establishing an Ashley Johnson Barr day has the possibility to change the way people deal with child sexual abuse, rape, and violence against women in rural Alaska. During this tragic event in 2018, communities across the state banded together in many different ways to show support for Ashley Johnson Barr and her family. Many had community walks and candlelight vigils, sharing pictures on social media and with local media outlets. Others donated financially through a Go Fund Me account set up for the family, and/or sent food/gifts/bikes to the family from around the state.

Celebrating Ashley Johnson Barr Day will keep this problem out in the open. It will be harder for families to look the other way when they see something similar happening to their children...to sweep these types of problems under the rug. Children will grow up knowing that what had happened to Ashley, and what happens to many other children around the state, is wrong. It has the potential to empower children who may be experiencing molestation to find an adult who believes them and truly wants to help them get out of that awful cycle of abuse. Establishing Ashley Johnson Barr day is so much more than remembering one victim out of many, it keeps the spotlight on the harsh realities of rape and child sexual abuse in rural Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristen Dau', written in a cursive style.

Kristen Dau
Kotzebue Resident

February 13, 2020

Harold Rougeux
PO Box 171
Kotzebue, AK 99752

The Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Legislators,

I am writing today to express my support for Senate Bill SB-101, which was introduced on March 29, 2019 by Senator Olson. This bill would establish March 12 of each year as **Ashley Johnson-Barr Day** in honor of a young girl who was murdered in Kotzebue in 2018. I and many other community members participated in search parties to look for Ashley when she went missing, and her death was a heartbreaking loss to our entire state. A day honoring her would allow the state of Alaska to rally around the cause of reducing violence against Native women and girls, who are at much higher risk in Alaska and in the lower 48 than any other group. Please support the effort to memorialize this day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold Rougeux". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the printed contact information.

Harold Rougeux
PO Box 171
Kotzebue, AK 99752
907-412-2506