



ANB – ANS GRAND CAMP
JUNEAU, ALASKA – OCTOBER 2021



Resolution #21-09

TITLE: Support for Requiring Secure Storage of Firearms in Alaska

WHEREAS, Alaska's firearm death rate is the highest in the nation and nearly double the national average (23.3 per 100,000 vs. 11.7 in US);¹ and

WHEREAS, In Alaska, Alaska Native/American Indians have the highest gun death rate by race (37.52 per 100,000), which is higher than Alaska's overall firearm death rate of 23.3; and

WHEREAS, Guns are the #1 cause of death for children and teens (ages 0-19) in Alaska, an average of 22 children and teens in Alaska die by guns every year, and 61% of those deaths are gun suicides; and

WHEREAS, Nearly half (48.9%) of high school students (grades 9-12) in Alaska in 2019 could access a loaded gun, and one in four high school students (25.3%) in Alaska in 2019 had seriously considered suicide in the past year;² and

WHEREAS, 67% of Alaska's gun deaths are suicides, and Alaska's death rate from gun suicide is one of the highest in the nation and is more than double the national rate (15.5 vs. 6.8); and

WHEREAS, The rate of men murdering women in Alaska was number one in the nation in 2018 (3.4 per 100,000) and among the women murdered, 42% were killed with guns;³ and

WHEREAS, requiring the secure storage of firearms reduces the incidence of unintentional shootings and gun suicides, particularly among young people. However, in Alaska, there is currently no requirement that gun owners securely store their firearms.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood Grand Camp meeting in Juneau, Alaska, on October 2021, supports House Bill 203, the Alaska Secure Storage of Firearms Act, or similar legislation, requiring gun owners to securely store firearms in a locked container, with a

¹ Unless otherwise noted, data are from [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Wisqars](#) , Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System, (age-adjusted death rates per 100,000, for years 2015-2019)

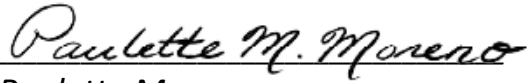
² Alaska Division of Public Health, 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Statewide Traditional High School Results

³ Violence Policy Center, <https://vpc.org/studies/wmmw2020.pdf>

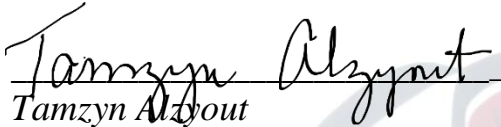
gun lock, or by other means to render the firearm inaccessible or unable to be used by a person who is not the owner or an authorized person.



Heather Gurko
Grand President
Alaska Native Brotherhood



Paulette Moreno
Grand President
Alaska Native Sisterhood



Tamzyn Alzyout
Grand Secretary
Alaska Native Brotherhood



Carol Duis
Grand Secretary
Alaska Native Sisterhood

