



# Representative Andi Story

## Alaska State Legislature

### House District 3

Upper Mendenhall Valley

Haines  
Klukwan  
Gustavus  
Skagway

Member  
House Education

Member  
House State Affairs

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### Sponsor Statement

#### House Bill 26

May 3, 2023

*"An Act renaming the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council as the Council for Alaska Native Languages; and relating to the Council for Alaska Native Languages."*

House Bill 26 reflects a request from the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council (ANLPAC) to change its name to the "Council for Alaska Native Languages." This change would shorten the Council's name while emphasizing the Council's broader focus, which includes more than just language preservation. The statute establishing the Council, AS 44.33.520, states the purpose of the Council is to recommend "the establishment or reorganization of programs to support the preservation, restoration, and revitalization of Alaska Native languages."

The Council requests an increase in membership from five to seven members in recognition of the diversity of Alaska Native languages in the state. This allows for greater language representation on the Council and increases the involvement of a great number of native language speakers from different regions of the state.

The Council also requests that Wetal (T's'etsa'ut), Cup'ig, and Benhti Kokhwt'ana Kenaga' (Lower Tanana) and Sahcheeg xut'een xneege' (Middle Tanana) be included and recognized as official languages. This would change the total number of official languages in Alaska from 20 to 23.

I respectfully ask for your support in the passage of HB 26.