



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Public Safety

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON HUMAN & SEX TRAFFICKING
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Human Trafficking Recovery Services
My House

Senator Jesse Kiehl
Alaska State Senate
(Ex Officio)

Representative Sarah Vance
Alaska State House
(Ex Officio)

March 26, 2024

The Honorable Representative Vance
State Capitol Room 118
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: House Bill 259 – Council on Human and Sex Trafficking

Dear Representative Vance,

The Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking ("CHST") works with human and sex trafficking in the context of government, law enforcement, prosecution, education, corrections, and victim advocacy. This council writes to express their support for House Bill 259 ("HB 259").

HB 259 should be enacted because it will assist the CHST plan long term. At present the CHST is "temporary" in that it exists by virtue of an Administrative Order ("AO"). A change of administration could mean the end of the CHST's work, which creates an impediment to long term planning of council efforts. If written into statute, HB 259 would mean a stronger foundation for efforts to support a permanent council structure with appropriate levels of staff and the ability to seek and source funding which will support victims, services, education, and accountability.

The current CHST is supportive of structuring the council with the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) under one executive director given the known overlap between the two very important subjects. The CDVSA is currently providing funding which assists trafficking victims by addressing domestic violence and sexual assault. However, the CDVSA is essentially at capacity. Co-locating the CHST and CDVSA under one executive director will allow for a structure where the CHST can address trafficking and realize the benefit of the CDVSA's existing composition while not further taxing CDVSA's ability to serve victims.

Respectfully,

Bryan Barlow
Chair, Council on Human and Sex Trafficking
Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety

cc: Governor's Legislative Office