

Electronic Mail: Senator.matt.claman@akleg.gov

February 9, 2023

Senator Matt Claman  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: AHHA Supports SB 28 workplace violence protective orders

Dear Senator Claman,

For 70 years, the Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association (AHHA) has served as a non-profit trade association representing Alaska's hospitals, nursing homes, and other healthcare partners across the continuum of care. AHHA members play an invaluable role, both as community providers and essential employers, in cities, towns, and villages across Alaska.

AHHA is pleased to offer our support for SB28, to establish workplace violence protective orders. Workplace violence is a significant problem at hospitals and healthcare organizations across Alaska and we support a variety of solutions to improve safety in the workplace. We support the efforts of Senate Bill 28 to model the process used by Alaska's domestic violence protective order process and allow an employer to file a petition for a protective order against an individual who the employer reasonably believes committed an act of violence against the employer or an employee, or made a threat of violence at employer's workplace.

AHHA support SB 28 as a way to add one more strategy to the toolkit to impact workplace violence. We urge the passage to give employers another option to protect their workplace and their employees from threats of violence.

Thank you for your support for workforce safety.

Sincerely,



Jared C. Kosin, JD, MBA  
President & CEO



## KANADY CHIROPRACTIC

March 4, 2024

Since 1988, my husband and I have owned and operated Kanady Chiropractic in midtown Anchorage. In over 35 years as employers, we've had rare but serious instances in which our ability to protect our workplace was limited by existing law in Alaska.

In one case, an employee was stalked by a person she had no history of interpersonal or domestic partnership with. At the time, she was unable to obtain a domestic violence protective order. In part due to the experiences and advocacy of my husband and I and our employee, the Legislature passed HB 1 in 2003, which made stalking and sexual assault grounds for a protective order (AS 18.65.850).

This was an important improvement for public safety, but protections for workplaces remain unaddressed. Our employee's stalker regularly sat in a car outside of our business before, during, and after our employee's shifts and even entered the office when he observed our office leadership had left the building. When we asked for help from local law enforcement, they informed us that this individual was not breaking any laws. No matter the frequency or intention with which the stalker visited our business, the police would only tell us there is nothing they could do. As employers with no direct relationship to the stalker, we were told we did not qualify for a restraining order, even with the concern that all our staff was at risk. We had a responsibility for the safety of not only the affected employee, but all our staff. Our employees were obviously scared. So, we had to hire a private security company to patrol our office morning, noon and night. It made no difference to this individual if it was dark or in broad daylight. And at that point in our career this was money we did not have.

In another circumstance, an employee was attacked by her partner in our office when she sought safety there early in the morning. As employers, we knew that this employee felt unsafe at the beginning and end of her shifts. Although it's impossible to know if this episode would've been avoided, our employee's attacker could've been deterred if he was served a workplace violence protective order.

[KANADYCHIROPRACTIC.COM](http://KANADYCHIROPRACTIC.COM)

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REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE

I support SB 28 because it would give employers a time-sensitive and effective way to protect their workplaces. I'm encouraged by the possibility to enable law enforcement in supporting safe workplaces. Given my experiences as an employer, I believe employers will work alongside their employees to determine the need for a workplace violence protective order.

Thank you for considering this important legislation.

Sincerely,



J. Lynn Kanady