

Doniece Gott

From: Mari Mukai <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2024 9:54 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: HB66 (testimony in grand jury)
Attachments: ACA Letter_HB67-SB65.pdf

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Mari Mukai and I am the executive director of the Alaska Children's Alliance, the statewide membership organization of Child Advocacy Centers (CACs). CACs coordinate the multi-disciplinary response to child abuse, an essential service given that Alaska consistently suffers from some of the nation's highest rates of child abuse.

I am writing regarding the HB66 crime bill created by the Senate Judiciary committee, which included the HB67 grand jury change to allow hearsay testimony. The bill would allow for the CAC video recorded interview to be summarized or played at a grand jury proceeding, eliminating the need for children to testify. We are in support of this component of the bill, as it would provide an option to protect child victims of abuse from potential re-victimization.

Please see the attached for a letter we previously submitted on this matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration and please do not hesitate to reach out if you need additional information.

Mari

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Mari Mukai
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<https://www.facebook.com/akchildrensalliance>

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2024 7:37 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: In support of the SCS HB 66 JUD

Good morning, Committee Members,

Helping Ourselves Prevent Emergencies (HOPE) supports the SCS HB 66 JUD version of the bill. We appreciate the work the Judiciary Committee did to emphasize how important it is to help victims and to have accountability for offenders with the addition to HB 66. It is imperative that several Senate Judiciary components added to the bill are kept. We especially appreciate the opportunity to change the Court Rule regarding grand jury-allowing a law enforcement officer to testify to the statements made by victims/survivors instead of requiring the victim/survivor to have to testify in front of the 18-member grand jury. Such a change goes a long way to reducing the additional trauma crime victims undergo as they journey through the criminal justice process. Clarifying the restitution statute is helpful to restore some of the things that victims/survivors have lost as they navigate through the offender accountability process. Exchanging the term "child pornography" for "child sexual abuse material" sends a strong message that sexual crimes against children will not be tolerated in Alaska. Please support the swift passage of the Senate Judiciary version of HB 66.

Respectfully,
Tiffany

Tiffany Mills
HOPE- Executive Director

hopeprevention@aptalaska.net
Ph. 907-826-2581

Doniece Gott

From: Cheri Smith <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2024 9:16 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SCS HB 66

The LeeShore Center supports SCS HB 66 JUD version of the bill, which emphasizes the importance of help for victims/survivors and accountability for offenders that were added to HB 66. It is important to us to ensure several components of the bill that were added in Senate Judiciary stay in the bill. For example, changing the Court Rule regarding grand jury, allowing a law enforcement officer to testify to the statements made by victims instead of requiring the victim to have to testify in front of the grand jury. Also, clarifying the restitution statute to help restore some of the things victims have lost as they navigate through holding offenders accountable. Exchanging the term "child pornography" for "child sexual abuse material" – which sends a strong message that sexual crimes against children will not be tolerated in Alaska. Please support passage of the Senate Judiciary version of HB 66.

*Cheri Smith
Executive Director
The LeeShore Center
325 S. Spruce St.
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(907) 283-9479*

Doniece Gott

From: Josh Louwerson <jlouwerson@covenanthouseak.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2024 9:57 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 66

Good Morning Senators,

I am writing as the current chair of the Alaska Children's Justice Act Task force in regard to HB 66.

As a group of professionals we have worked with many victims of crime and I advocate for the repeal the Court Rule that requires victims to testify in person at grand jury proceedings, often only days after being victimized, to re-tell their story and re-live their trauma in front of a group of strangers – even though the victim has already provided the information (often audio recorded and/or videotaped testimony) to public officials, medical professionals, law enforcement, and/or a judge.

Thank you,

Josh Louwerson | pronouns: he/him/his
Senior Director of Legislative Affairs and Youth Systems Improvement



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Dena'inaq elnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu.
I live and work on the land of the Dena'ina.

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May 6, 2024

Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801



RE: Support for Senate Judiciary CS for House Bill 66

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

Alaska Children's Trust offers our support for provisions in the Senate Judiciary Committee Substitute for House Bill 66. Specifically, we support the provisions which would allow the prosecution to present hearsay evidence to grand juries and the updating of statutory language related to child sexual abuse materials. As the statewide lead organization focused on the prevention of child abuse and neglect, we support policies that reduce the negative impacts of trauma for victims of abuse. These provisions in the Senate Judiciary CS for House Bill 66 accomplish this by removing the requirement for victims to be present for testimony, thereby limiting the risk of re-traumatization during legal proceedings. Additionally, the bill includes terminology changes to Alaska's statutes that underscore the abusive nature of child sexual abuse materials. Both of these provisions facilitate justice and healing for victims, and ACT supports these victim-centered policies.

According to KIDS Count, 13.7% of Alaskan adults have reported experiencing sexual abuse as a child. While child sexual abuse (CSA) happens to children of all ages, the median age of abuse is nine. 91% of CSA is perpetrated by someone the child or the child's family knows. Additionally, research from the Adverse Childhood Experiences study documents the lifelong impacts of CSA, increasing victims' risk of future health and developmental problems.

The Senate Judiciary CS for House Bill 66 acknowledges the importance of policies that consider the victim and their well-being within Alaska's legal landscape. Policies such as these center the victim, promote healing, and reduce the risk of further trauma. We encourage your support for these important provisions within this piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Trevor J. Storrs
President & CEO
Alaska Children's Trust

Alaska Children's Trust

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Doniece Gott

From: Suki Miller <Suki@victimsforjustice.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 07, 2024 1:08 PM
To: Senate Judiciary; Sen. Matt Claman; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Löki Tobin
Cc: Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. David Wilson
Subject: RE: Victims For Justice - HB66

Good afternoon,

As we head toward the end of this legislative session, I wanted to follow up on my email below with two videos of surviving family members of homicide victims. Victims aren't simply "somebody else" but Alaskans, friends, family members that you know and love. Please consider what you can do *now* to positively impact the experience of crime victims in this State.

Ralph Samuels: <https://vimeo.com/913540814/1d830a0aeb?share=copy>

Long Live Leroy Documentary: <https://victimsforjustice.org/victim-voices/long-live-leroy-2/>

Thank you,

Suki Miller | Executive Director
Office: 907-278-0977 | Email: suki@victimsforjustice.org

1057 W. Fireweed Ln. Suite 101 Anchorage, AK 99503
victimsforjustice.org



From: Suki Miller
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 11:41 AM
To: Senate.Judiciary@akleg.gov; Sen.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov; Senator.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov;
Senator.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov; Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov; Senator.Loki.Tobin@akleg.gov
Cc: Senate.Finance.Committee@akleg.gov; Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov; Senator.Donald.Olson@akleg.gov;
Senator.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov; Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov; Senator.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov;
Senator.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov; Senator.David.Wilson@akleg.gov
Subject: Victims For Justice - Senate CS for HB66 (JUD)

Good morning,

I would like to thank Chairman Claman and the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee for introducing draft Senate Committee Substitute (CS) for HB66 (JUD).

Victims for Justice (VFJ) strongly supports removing the unnecessary burden for innocent victims of violent crime to appear at grand jury proceedings. Not allowing hearsay and requiring the victim to come to court to relive one of their worst days, hurts victims, contributes to the court's backlog, delays the process, and increases the cost to the state.

Many states do not have grand jury proceedings at all; the prosecutor simply presents the evidence to a judge, and the judge determines if there is enough evidence to proceed to trial. For states that do have grand jury proceedings, most, including the federal government, do not require victims to be at grand jury proceedings.

VFJ is also in favor of the legislation that strengthens victims' rights in dismissed criminal cases where the defendant is under evaluation or commitment, allowing them to attend court hearings and receive notifications on certain developments.

Although VFJ specializes in providing victim services to victims of "other crimes" (non dv/sa related assault, robbery, arson, drunk driving, and surviving family members of homicide victims) we do agree with ANDVSA and support changing the language in statute from child pornography to child sexual abuse material and the proposed fixes to gaps in the sex offender registration process.

It is our Mission at VFJ is to care for Alaskans affected by violent crime and it is so encouraging to see you all working together to protect and help Alaska crime victims and survivors. THANK YOU!

Suki Miller | Executive Director
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