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**From:** Jenni Johnson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2024 3:37 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** HB234

My name is Jenni Johnson calling in from Anchorage, Alaska.

I am speaking on behalf of myself to testify in support of HB 234.

I am for this bill because, unfortunately, for Indigenous women and people of color we do not receive 24-hour rolling media coverage if murdered, missing or both.

and due to lack of training, improper investigation and staffing issues our cases often grow unresolved.

As an Alaskan native woman and a mother of two Alaskan native girls the thought of this absolutely terrifies me.

my aunt was sexual assaulted then murdered. her case is unresolved to this day.

A former high school classmate was murdered, and her case was only brought partially to justice due to an individual turning in evidence of her murder.

Passing this bill is vital as it will ensure that there is a committee set permanently in place that oversees the education and training required for police officers and investigators to properly handle cases such as these with a consistent and stable process.

The training that covers domestic violence, sexual assault, and cultural training as Alaska has some of the highest number of DV and sexual assault per capita.

I would like to add that the Department of Public Safety should realistically have 6-8 investigative liaison positions due to the high volume of cases and number of rural communities throughout Alaska. Having additional positions would provide the support needed to help proper investigation ongoing cases.

I understand that this bill isn't going to be an end all solution for the communities and people of Alaska. But this will ensure continued conversation on this subject and give peace of mind for parents like myself when it comes to our children and the future generations.

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**From:** P G <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 02, 2024 12:59 AM  
**To:** House Finance

Written Testimony on HB 234

Hi, My name is Alison Ralston I am the eldest sister to Bessie Ruth Ralston who was murdered here in Kotzebue back on March 20, 2016. We strongly believe that her boyfriend and the multiple people that were there that night/early morning, had some kind of involvement in her death.

It was late Saturday night and there was a party at my sisters boyfriends house. It's a duplex owned by his mother Sandy who lives in Apt A and Bessie, her boyfriend and kids lived in Apt B. At approximately 3:20 am (Sunday) my mother calls me saying that Sandy Russell just called saying we need to go to the er, something about Bessie. I went and picked up my mom from her house and we get to the er by 3:30. The receptionist had no idea why we were there or didn't know anything about my sister. We sit and wait and an hour later we see the paramedics rushing by doing CPR on someone. Approximately 5AM the dr came out and let us know Bessie didn't make it. They never mentioned what happened or how she died. They let us see her and she was all covered up, her hands were covered with paper bags so all we saw was her face. Investigator Millette was there in the ER not once did he tell us what happened or how she died. We assumed that she drank too much and just didn't wake up. On Tuesday March 22, we seen a City of Kotzebue Press Release regarding a fatal shooting in Kotzebue stating that KPD received a call at 3:33 am for an ambulance to respond to an unknown situation. My dad and I went straight over to KPD and asked Millette and chief Swisher why they didn't tell us she died of a gunshot wound. They said that they thought we knew. Wednesday, March 23 Sandy throws all of my sisters belongings out of the house. Her boyfriend and I worked at the same place and thankfully he told me, I rushed over and grabbed what I could. She made a comment to one of the guys clearing out the house, that she wanted a new life for Kevin. Approximately 6weeks prior to my sister's death her boyfriend was involved with another incident where he nearly killed another person. He was driving a snowmachine while intoxicated and ran over Tom Nay nearly killed him. Kevin is a known felon and should not have been allowed to have any guns and he had several. Bessie was afraid of them and did mention that to us.

We the family want justice for Bessie. We want answers and closure. It's been far too long. 8 years is too long. She was 32years old, a mother of 3 beautiful kids,a sister, daughter and friend. She was very artistic and creative. She did not commit suicide as both Sandy and Kevin kept telling everyone that even on social media.

Thank you for your time  
Alison Ralston