

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**SENATE JUDICIARY STANDING COMMITTEE**

March 17, 2014

1:32 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator John Coghill, Chair  
Senator Fred Dyson  
Senator Donald Olson

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Senator Lesil McGuire, Vice Chair  
Senator Bill Wielechowski

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

SENATE BILL NO. 187

"An Act relating to the crime of endangering the welfare of a child in the second degree; relating to the crime of misconduct involving confidential information in the first degree; amending Rule 16(d)(3), Alaska Rules of Criminal Procedure; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED CSSB 187(JUD) OUT OF COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL NO. 201

"An Act relating to the crime of trespass."

- HEARD & HELD

SENATE BILL NO. 170

"An Act relating to a defense to the crime of prostitution for victims of sex trafficking."

- HEARD & HELD

SENATE BILL NO. 176

"An Act relating to the regulation of firearms and knives by the University of Alaska."

- HEARD & HELD

CONFIRMATION HEARINGS

**Board of Governors of the Alaska Bar**

WILLIAM GRANGER

- SCHEDULED BUT NOT HEARD

**Commission of Judicial Conduct**

MARC W. JUNE

- SCHEDULED BUT NOT HEARD

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: SB 187

SHORT TITLE: CHILD WELFARE; CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) COGHILL

02/21/14	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/21/14	(S)	JUD
03/12/14	(S)	JUD AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
03/12/14	(S)	Heard & Held
03/12/14	(S)	MINUTE(JUD)
03/14/14	(S)	JUD AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
03/14/14	(S)	-- MEETING CANCELED --
03/17/14	(S)	JUD AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

BILL: SB 201

SHORT TITLE: CRIMINAL TRESPASS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) STEDMAN

02/24/14	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/24/14	(S)	JUD
03/17/14	(S)	JUD AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

BILL: SB 170

SHORT TITLE: AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE TO PROSTITUTION

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) GARDNER

02/12/14	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/12/14	(S)	JUD
03/14/14	(S)	JUD AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
03/14/14	(S)	-- MEETING CANCELED --
03/17/14	(S)	JUD AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

BILL: SB 176

SHORT TITLE: REG. OF FIREARMS/KNIVES BY UNIVERSITY

SPONSOR(s): SENATOR(s) COGHILL

02/14/14	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
----------	-----	---------------------------------

02/14/14	(S)	JUD
03/03/14	(S)	JUD AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
03/03/14	(S)	Heard & Held
03/03/14	(S)	MINUTE(JUD)
03/05/14	(S)	JUD AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
03/05/14	(S)	Heard & Held
03/05/14	(S)	MINUTE(JUD)
03/10/14	(S)	JUD AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
03/10/14	(S)	Heard & Held
03/10/14	(S)	MINUTE(JUD)
03/14/14	(S)	JUD AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
03/14/14	(S)	-- MEETING CANCELED --
03/17/14	(S)	JUD AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

**WITNESS REGISTER**

RYNNIEVA MOSS, Staff  
 Senator John Coghill  
 Alaska State Legislature  
 Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Provided information related to SB 187 on behalf of the sponsor.

SENATOR BERT STEDMAN  
 Alaska State Legislature  
 Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Sponsor of SB 201.

CAPTAIN BURKE WALDRON, Operations Commander  
 Alaska State Troopers  
 Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers  
 Department of Public Safety  
 Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Provided information related to SB 201.

QUINLAN STEINER, Director  
 Public Defender Agency  
 Department of Administration  
 Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Answered questions related to SB 201.

SENATOR BERTA GARDNER  
 Alaska State Legislature  
 Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Sponsor of SB 170.

STEVEN HANDY, Intern

Senator Berta Gardner  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Introduced SB 170 on behalf of the sponsor.

ROBIN RICHARDSON, Urban Justice Center  
New York City  
New York

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Provided information related to SB 170.

JESSICA EMERSON, Staff  
Equal Justice Works Fellow  
Women's Law Center of Maryland  
Towson, Maryland

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 170.

PATRICK VENTGEN, representing himself  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified that SB 170 is a good start.

MAXINE DOOGAN  
Community United for Safety and Protection  
California

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Offered suggestions to improve SB 170.

TARA RUPANI, Member  
Community United for Safety and Protection  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 170 as a child trafficking victim.

DIANA BLINE, Director  
Program Services  
Covenant House Alaska  
Arizona

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in strong support of SB 170.

KAYT SUNWOOD, representing herself  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 170.

JEAN RICHEY, Ph.D., Professor  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in strong support of SB 170 and expressed hope that the language would be made stronger.

DAVID POPPE, representing himself  
Nenana, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 170.

KEYANA MARSHALL, representing herself  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 170.

ALBERT JUDSON, representing himself  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in opposition to SB 176.

SHAUNA THORNTON, Speaker  
Coalition of Student Leaders  
Kenai Peninsula College  
Soldotna, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in opposition to SB 176.

MICHAEL MANCILL, representing himself  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Stated support for SB 176 and reservation that it would allow guns in dorms.

#### **ACTION NARRATIVE**

[1:32:58 PM](#)

**CHAIR JOHN COGHILL** called the Senate Judiciary Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Dyson, Olson, and Chair Coghill.

#### **SB 187-CHILD WELFARE; CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

[1:33:53 PM](#)

**CHAIR COGHILL** announced the consideration of SB 187, "An Act relating to the crime of endangering the welfare of a child in the second degree; relating to the crime of misconduct involving confidential information in the first degree; amending Rule 16(d)(3), Alaska Rules of Criminal Procedure; and providing for an effective date." This was the second hearing on the bill.

**CHAIR COGHILL** removed the objection he stated during the 3/12/14 hearing. Finding no further objection, Version N was adopted.

[1:34:36 PM](#)

**RYNNIEVA MOSS**, Staff, Senator John Coghill, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, provided information related to SB 187 on behalf of the sponsor. She noted that she had an

amendment prepared to address the concerns that Senators McGuire and Wielechowski expressed during the previous hearing.

[1:35:23 PM](#)

SENATOR DYSON moved to adopt Amendment 1, labeled 28-LS1145\N.1.

CHAIR COGHILL objected for an explanation.

**AMENDMENT 1**

OFFERED IN THE SENATE

TO: CSSB 187( ), Draft Version "N"

Page 2, line 17:

Delete "the"

Page 2, line 18:

Delete "victim"

Insert "an adult victim or a minor victim for whom the disabilities of minority have been removed for general purposes under AS 09.55.590"

Page 2, line 19, following "(ii)":

Insert "a"

Page 5, line 2:

Delete "another person"

Insert "a party's expert witness"

Page 5, line 9:

Delete "This Act applies"

Insert "(a) Sections 1 and 2 of this Act apply to offenses committed on or after the effective date of this Act.

(b) Sections 3 - 5 of this Act apply"

MS. MOSS explained that the amendment takes care of a concern that Senator McGuire had that by default, if there was no parent or guardian, there would be a situation where a minor could release confidential information. It also addresses a concern by Senator Wielechowski about broad access to the information, and allows expert witnesses access to confidential information. The final provision of the amendment addresses the applicability of the bill and divides it into two parts; applicability to the crime and charges committed on or after the effective date, and the applicability of confidential information in ongoing criminal proceedings.

CHAIR COGHILL removed his objection and Amendment 1 was adopted. Finding no questions or comment, he solicited a motion.

[1:38:01 PM](#)

SENATOR DYSON moved to report CS for SB 187, as amended, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

CHAIR COGHILL announced that without objection, CSSB 187(JUD) was reported from the Senate Judiciary Standing Committee.

[1:38:31 PM](#)

At ease

**SB 201-CRIMINAL TRESPASS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY**

[1:39:35 PM](#)

CHAIR COGHILL reconvened the meeting and announced the consideration of SB 201, "An Act relating to the crime of trespass." This was the first hearing.

[1:39:52 PM](#)

SENATOR STEDMAN, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, sponsor of SB 201, introduced the legislation by reading the following sponsor statement into the record: [Original punctuation provided.]

As a landowner, you have the right to regulate activities on your property. However, in Alaska, current state law gives a person the privilege to enter and remain on unimproved or apparently unused land that isn't posted with "no trespassing" signs. Furthermore, a sign must be placed at each roadway or access point onto the property.

Many Alaskans own private property in remote locations with inclement weather. No trespassing signs can be blown down, removed by vandals, or covered by snow. The lack of visible signage should not absolve trespassers of guilt.

Senate Bill 201 would repeal Alaska Statute 11.46.350(b) and (c), thereby removing the requirement that private property be posted in order for criminal trespass laws to be enforced. It should be the responsibility of the individual to know who owns the property that they want to access. Today's technology

allows many options for individuals to identify public and private property boundaries such as topo maps that can be downloaded on a smart phone or GPS. In addition, the public can access maps showing property boundaries from the state Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Geological Survey, as well as municipal plats available at city hall.

[1:42:12 PM](#)

SENATOR STEDMAN opined that "No Trespassing" signs are offensive to many and putting them up can create more problems than they solve. This legislation is intended to eradicate the need for those signs.

[1:45:33 PM](#)

SENATOR OLSON asked if his attitude would change if he were to find that his own cabin was used and burned to the ground. He provided an example where someone might need to use the cabin in an emergency.

SENATOR STEDMAN said he didn't think so. When it's a health and safety issue someone could use the cabin. He did not see the effectiveness in that situation.

CHAIR COGHILL noted that Captain Burke Waldron and Quinlan Steiner were available to answer questions.

SENATOR OLSON commented that someone in need would break the lock to get into a cabin.

[1:47:50 PM](#)

SENATOR DYSON observed that this didn't change the law regarding vandalism of private property.

SENATOR STEDMAN said "not in a literal form." He opined that the bill would not incite people.

CHAIR COGHILL asked Captain Waldron his view of the bill in terms of whether no trespassing signs are an enticement or serve a legal purpose of fair warning.

[1:49:44 PM](#)

CAPTAIN BURKE WALDRON, Operations Commander, Alaska State Troopers, Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Department of Public Safety, Anchorage, Alaska, advised that he's seen situations where the signs are vandalized or removed, but he

couldn't speak to whether it entices further vandalism or criminal mischief.

CHAIR COGHILL asked if it's reasonable to expect people to know their location based on GPS information.

CAPTAIN WALDRON said he hasn't verified the accuracy of any GPS units, but found some of them to be accurate. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has tested some of the software and found the programs to be accurate. He noted that not everyone has access to a GPS.

CHAIR COGHILL asked Mr. Steiner if the bill removes some protections for private land owners.

[1:52:36 PM](#)

QUINLAN STEINER, Director, Public Defender Agency, Department of Administration, Anchorage, Alaska, replied he didn't think the bill would remove protections for private land owners. People who inadvertently or recklessly enter land could be held criminally liable. The standard would probably be "reckless."

CHAIR COGHILL offered that a posted sign says what is expected of an individual. He asked if the sign was not there, whether the person could reasonably claim to not know the land was private.

MR. STEINER replied they could argue they didn't know. An alternative would be to handle it as a violation with a civil fine, rather than with a criminal penalty.

SENATOR STEDMAN said he didn't believe that a prosecutor would bring charges against Senator Dyson if he were found on private property.

CHAIR COGHILL commented on his experience in Nenana where land was not posted, but he knew not to go on the land unless invited.

SENATOR DYSON highlighted that Mr. Steiner made the point that this doesn't reduce rights and protections of the private property owner. This just removes the need for a sign. He opined the bill is on target and said he agrees with the intent.

CHAIR COGHILL commented that he appreciates the behavior a sign might elicit.

SENATOR DYSON commented on a sign in Oregon.

[1:57:51 PM](#)

CHAIR COGHILL announced he would hold SB 201 in committee for further consideration.

**SB 170-AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE TO PROSTITUTION**

[1:58:03 PM](#)

CHAIR COGHILL announced the consideration of SB 170, "An Act relating to a defense to the crime of prostitution for victims of sex trafficking." This was the first hearing on the bill.

[1:58:39 PM](#)

SENATOR BERTA GARDNER, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, sponsor of SB 170, directed attention to an article in the packets from KTUU. It talks about the case/story of Keyana Marshall, who at 15 started babysitting for a woman who turned out to be a madam, and was sucked into prostitution. Ms. Marshall said when she got out of the "trade" she was mistaken by law enforcement as someone who willingly engaged in prostitution and, as a result, spent time in prison. She is now a member of a group called "Sex Trafficking Alaska" whose members say, "The state's prostitution laws are punishing women who are forced into the sex trade."

SENATOR GARDNER reported that Alaska Attorney General Geraghty said a change in prostitution laws is not necessarily the solution. He says, "Victims need to take a courageous first step and help them untangle the web of commercial sex trafficking. They have to agree to cooperate - we have to get their trust. They have to come forward, testify, cooperate with us in trying to get the traffickers." She advised that SB 170 gives victims a reason to trust law enforcement and gives law enforcement a tool to garner information about traffickers.

[2:00:41 PM](#)

STEVE HANDY, Intern, Senator Berta Gardner, introduced SB 170, on behalf of the sponsor. He spoke to the following sponsor statement: [Original punctuation provided.]

This bill directs the court system to accept an affirmative defense in the crime of prostitution, if a person can prove they were the victim of sex trafficking at the time of the prostitution charge. Currently, in Alaska, anti-sex trafficking statutes may ensnare those who have been trafficked, resulting

in the arrests and prosecution of those who were, themselves, victims of sex trafficking. This creates a system of re-victimization; a prostitute forced into sex work can be subjected to arrest, prosecution and the hardships and stigmas of conviction.

SB 170 will not only provide protection from the double victimization explained above but it will also help to expose the extent of sex trafficking in Alaska. According to the FBI in Anchorage, seven sex trafficking cases have resulted in 105 arrests. But these are not complete numbers. Prostitutes do not call law enforcement or other emergency services to report victimization out of fear of arrest and conviction. This set of circumstances not only denies people access to basic and necessary services; it renders sex trafficking and prostitution in the state extremely difficult to address or measure.

As supporting documentation indicates, other states are recognizing the irrationality and unfairness of such a system. This bill will refine Alaska law to differentiate between a victim of sex trafficking and a person willfully committing a crime, and thus begin the process of rehabilitation of sex trafficking victims forced into prostitution. Federal and state law enforcement and public policy experts contacted in the research phase of this bill summarily welcomed SB 170 as appropriate and timely.

The Alaska Department of Law has reviewed the bill and supports its intent and language. I hope you will join them, the co-sponsors, and this office in support of this important bill.

[2:05:46 PM](#)

CHAIR COGHILL opened public testimony.

[2:06:09 PM](#)

ROBIN RICHARDSON, Urban Justice Center, New York City, New York, summarized her history as an experienced anti-trafficking advocate and concerned Alaskan. She pointed out needed changes to the bill. She suggested expanding the language of SB 170 to create a remedy for victims at any stage of the criminal process, including post-conviction, and repairing the relationship with law enforcement by providing screening training for law enforcement that is led by survivors. She

thanked the committee for helping Alaska to potentially become a leader in eradicating human trafficking.

[2:11:11 PM](#)

SENATOR DYSON noted that the statute says a person is guilty of sex trafficking if they induce someone through the use force. His understanding is that getting a person addicted to heroin or some other drug has been the means of forcing the prostitution. He asked that should be included as a positive defense.

MS. RICHARDSON offered her belief that trafficking in Alaska has removed the elements of force, fraud, or coercion. In Alaska, a person could be guilty of sex trafficking in the fourth degree for facilitating prostitution.

CHAIR COGHILL affirmed that the statute was amended last year. He suggested that the Department of Law could review those changes for the committee.

[2:13:17 PM](#)

JESSICA EMERSON, Staff, Equal Justice Works Fellow, Women's Law Center of Maryland, Towson, Maryland, stated that she's been an anti-trafficking advocate for ten years. She voiced support for the intent of SB 170 and offered recommendations to make it more comprehensive and responsive to the experiences of the victims of sex trafficking.

First, the bill should be expanded to allow previous convictions to be vacated once the victim is able to come forward, because victims often are arrested multiple times before they reveal their victimization. This would serve as an incentive to report to law enforcement.

Second, the affirmative defense should not be limited to prostitution offenses only, as it does not reflect the reality of the trafficker's influence and control over their victims. Traffickers routinely force or manipulate their victims into committing a range of crimes.

Finally, SB 170 should expressly permit the introduction of exigent evidence by armed service providers or other advocates as evidence of a person's victimization. Evidence from a governmental organization should create a rebuttable presumption that the victim is eligible for such relief. Placing the burden on the victim ignores the reality that most sex trafficking victims are too scared, ashamed, or traumatized to report their victimization. Others are unaware that they are victims of

trafficking and have been manipulated by their traffickers to believe that they are deserving of such criminalization.

2:17:10 PM

PATRICK VENTGEN, representing himself, Anchorage, Alaska, said he's a mental health clinician who commends SB 170 as a good start. He agreed with the suggested changes that Robin Richardson offered. He offered his experience that sex traffickers often are people the victim already knows. The grooming techniques can be very subtle and stretch out over a number of years. By the time the sex trafficking starts, the individuals have been doing prostitution for a long time. They are victims and SB 170 is a first step to not revictimize these individuals.

2:20:05 PM

MAXINE DOOGAN, Community United for Safety and Protection, San Francisco, California, offered suggestions to improve SB 170. The first is to remove the burden on victims who must qualify their status when they find themselves a defendant in a criminal proceeding. Another improvement is to ensure that sex trafficking victims' prior convictions are vacated once they decide to come forward. Finally, a provision should be added to protect the identity of sex trafficking victims or those alleged to be in prostitution to reduce the likelihood of further harassment or discrimination.

LAEL MORGAN, representing herself, Anchorage, Alaska, offered to answer questions related to SB 170. She advised that she had authored books on prostitution during the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush.

2:23:00 PM

TARA RUPANI, Member, Community United for Safety and Protection, Fairbanks, Alaska, said she was a trafficking victim as a child. She advised that she made a public records request for all the charges related to sex trafficking and prostitution in 2012-2013 and learned that only alleged prostitutes have been charged with sex trafficking and the alleged victims have been arrested and charged with prostitution. The trafficking law that was passed in 2012 has only been used against vulnerable women in the sex industry and never to help them.

MS. RUPANI discussed the marked differences in the language in SB 170 and the sex trafficking law, and the difficulties associated with gaining employment or stable housing with a criminal record of sex trafficking. She cited examples and

suggested that all the convictions related to being a trafficking victim should be removed from CourtView. This will help these victims become productive members of society.

She said the bill formalizes what appears to be current practice which is that the police generally choose not to charge victims who cooperate with their demands. However, the process of making access to services and treatment as a victim contingent on cooperating with law enforcement, which may include testifying, re-traumatizes the victim and violates their human rights. She offered her belief that Alaskans want all victims to be protected, not just those who win the approval of law enforcement. She concluded saying that Alaskans are dependent on legislators to stop the revictimization of victims.

[2:30:29 PM](#)

DIANA BLINE, Director, Program Services, Covenant House Alaska, Anchorage, Alaska, reviewed the array of services that Covenant House offers homeless and at-risk youths ages 13-20. She discussed staff training and advised that over a three-month period last fall, 27 young people were identified as active victims of sex trafficking. A young victim is revictimized once they are arrested; they face legal sanctions and have a permanent record. This limits their future opportunities and makes it more difficult to leave the life of prostitution. On behalf of Covenant House, she stated strong support for the intent of SB 170.

[2:32:40 PM](#)

KAYT SUNWOOD, representing herself, Fairbanks, Alaska, stated that while SB 170 is an appreciated step toward addressing sex trafficking in Alaska, some aspects should be expanded to ensure the intent is realized. First, it is essential that sex trafficking victims and potential victims' identities are protected. Law enforcement should receive proper training, there should be a safety net for cooperating survivors, and limited immunity should be provided for those who report incidents of human trafficking.

[2:34:24 PM](#)

JEAN RICHEY, Ph.D., Professor, University of Alaska Fairbanks, said her primary concern is for social justice for victims of sex trafficking. That includes immunity for anyone making a report of sex trafficking and protection of the victim. She commended Senator Gardner for introducing SB 170 and expressed hope that the language would be made stronger.

[2:35:35 PM](#)

DAVID POPPE, representing himself, Nenana, Alaska, advised that working as an emergency medical services (EMS) provider, he has noticed that patients are reticent to discuss their victimization with law enforcement. He suggested additional training so they don't appear so forceful in cases involving prostitution. He also expressed a desire for more plain English in the law.

[2:37:39 PM](#)

KEYANA MARSHALL, representing herself, Fairbanks, Alaska, stated that she was a sex trafficking victim from age 15 and was charged as a co-conspirator as a result of being trafficked. She described the difficulties she's had getting a job because of her record, none of which she did of her own volition. She said she would like the bill to be revised and provide greater protections for victims.

[2:40:42 PM](#)

CHAIR COGHILL commented on the scope of the bill and asked the sponsor if she had closing comments.

SENATOR GARDNER said she recognizes that there are many more things that can be done, but the decision was to present a simple bill and perhaps get it passed this year.

CHAIR COGHILL announced he would hold SB 170 in committee for further consideration.

[2:44:13 PM](#)

At ease

**SB 176-REG. OF FIREARMS/KNIVES BY UNIVERSITY**

[2:45:21 PM](#)

CHAIR COGHILL reconvened the meeting and announced the consideration of SB 176. "An Act relating to the regulation of firearms and knives by the University of Alaska." This was the fourth hearing.

[2:46:00 PM](#)

ALBERT JUDSON, representing himself, Juneau, Alaska, informed the committee that he is a chemical dependency counselor, a former patrolman, Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO), and security officer testifying in opposition to SB 176. He discussed a handout showing gun laws in other states along with the campus shooting in Virginia and stressed that populations in

Alaska are much smaller and therefore not comparable. He asked the committee to consider that crime statistics this year at UAS are zero, that geographic interconnectedness has a negative impact on gun laws, and that Alaska has high alcoholism and drug abuse rates. He opined that students and faculty couldn't be blamed for walking off the UAS campus if this bill passes, and then offered suggestions for redesigning buildings to make allowance for violence of any kind. He concluded that a safe, secure learning environment is the best environment in the world.

[2:52:51 PM](#)

SHAUNA THORNTON, Speaker, Coalition of Student Leaders, Kenai Peninsula College, Soldotna, Alaska, reported that the Coalition met on March 7 and passed a resolution in support of the University of Alaska System position on SB 176. Speaking from the student perspective, she said she believes that if firearms are allowed on campus it puts anybody who is trying to calm a disgruntled student at a serious disadvantage because of the fear of the unknown. Right now, people on campus help one another but the feeling of interconnectedness could change if this bill were to pass.

[2:54:50 PM](#)

MICHAEL MANCILL, representing himself, Fairbanks, Alaska, said he is the vice-president of student government and a mining engineering student. He voiced support for SB 176 with one reservation that it would allow guns in dorms. In that environment firearms could possibly create danger, but he would feel comfortable and safer having firearms in the hands of responsible citizens on campus, in classrooms, and at university functions.

CHAIR COGHILL informed the audience and other interested parties that the forthcoming committee substitute is designed to respond to some of the university concerns and the question of guns in student housing.

MR. MANCILL responded that he saw the proposed committee substitute and supports the compromises.

SENATOR DYSON suggested the committee seriously consider the idea of having an approved lockbox that isn't stored in a community area to accommodate students living in a dorm setting.

CHAIR COGHILL announced he would hold SB 176 in committee for further consideration.

2:59:06 PM

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Coghill adjourned the Senate Judiciary Standing Committee meeting at 2:59 p.m.