

HB

326

Alaska State Legislature

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While in Session
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPONSOR STATEMENT House Bill 326

"An act relating to disclosures in contacts between crime victims and witnesses and the defense; relating to recordings of statements of crime victims and witnesses by the defense; and amending Alaska Rule of Evidence 613."

HB 326 would protect crime victims and witnesses from secret recordings. It also requires defense attorneys or those working for the defense to inform victims or witnesses of who they are and the person's legal right to consent to an interview with or without being recorded.

Recently the Alaska Bar Association adopted a rule to permit surreptitious taping without a person's notice or consent. This rule is an alarming encroachment on privacy and was passed by the Bar Association's Board of Governors over the dissent of the Bar Association's own ethics committee.

This legislation is strongly supported by the Victims Rights Community. HB 326 helps stop abusive practices by some defense attorneys who prey on victims and witnesses.

I respectfully request your support.