

HB

338

REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN MEYER

HOUSE DISTRICT 19

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 17, 2002
TO: Representative Fred Dyson
Chairman, House Health & Social Services Committee
FROM: Representative Kevin Meyer *Kevin*
RE: Scheduling HB 338

Please schedule HB 338 Appropriation: Grants to Prevent Youth Suicide, for a hearing on January 24, 2002. Representatives from the Boys & Girls Clubs will be in Juneau on January 24 on another matter and we hope to save them a trip by having HB 338 heard on the same day. Thank you for your consideration.

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR
STATE OF ALASKA

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Juneau, Alaska 99801
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January 23, 2002

Honorable Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair
Community and Regional Affairs Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Meyer:

The Community and Regional Affairs Committee has introduced legislation (HB 338) that would make an FY 2003 appropriation of \$1,000,000 to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southcentral Alaska for a youth suicide prevention program. The bill, along with some information concerning the Club's program, was presented to the Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB) during its January 18-20, 2002 meeting in Fairbanks. The AMHB is the state board charged with services planning and advocacy for Alaskans experiencing mental illness served by the public mental health system. The AMHB also is responsible for making annual budget recommendations for public mental health services to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.

Suicide prevention is a critical element of a comprehensive and effective mental health system in Alaska. We all know the grim statistics and the individual, family, and community toll suicide exacts. The AMHB strongly supports comprehensive and coordinated efforts to address the causes of suicide and the provision of adequate resources to do so.

The Suicide Prevention Council, created by the Legislature during its 2001 session, represents an opportunity to achieve these goals. The Council is required to develop a statewide suicide prevention plan. A comprehensive plan that coordinates services and ensures efficient resource use offers the best hope for success. We expect that the Council will consider programs such as the Boys and Girls Club as it develops its plan. The AMHB will take into account the Council's recommendations as it develops budget proposals for FY 2004.

Board policy bars endorsing a particular organization as the best qualified to carry out any initiative. That, we believe, is best achieved via a competitive process that includes careful assessment of a proposal and of the capacities of all organizations interested in delivering services.

The AMHB applauds your efforts to come to grips with this terrible problem. Please contact us if you have any questions or if we can help in any way.

Sincerely,

/Signed/

Jan MacClarence
Chair



Alaska State Legislature

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Representative Carl Morgan
Co-Chairman
Committee Aide, Bili Lawrence
(907) 465-3882

Representative Kevin Meyer
Co-Chairman
Committee Aide, Lorali Carter
(907) 465-6588

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 338

“An Act making a special appropriation for a grant to Boys & Girls Clubs of Southcentral Alaska.”

House Bill 338 makes a special appropriation of \$1,000,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southcentral Alaska for a statewide youth suicide prevention program.

There are 32 Boys & Girls Clubhouses in the state of Alaska. The money appropriated to fund the youth suicide prevention program will be divided between each of the 32 Clubhouses. The suicide prevention program will include drug, alcohol, and teen pregnancy prevention; education and career development; leadership and character development; conflict resolution and violence prevention; fitness and social recreation.

This Legislature has made children its top priority. HB 338 continues the commitment to a strong and healthy future by recognizing the need for suicide prevention programs in Alaska and providing a positive program through a dedicated organization.



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
ALASKA**

Our Vision

Be the premier youth development agency in Alaska

Our Mission

Through our Alaskan Clubhouses and programs, we ensure the youth we serve receive opportunities to develop to their full potential.

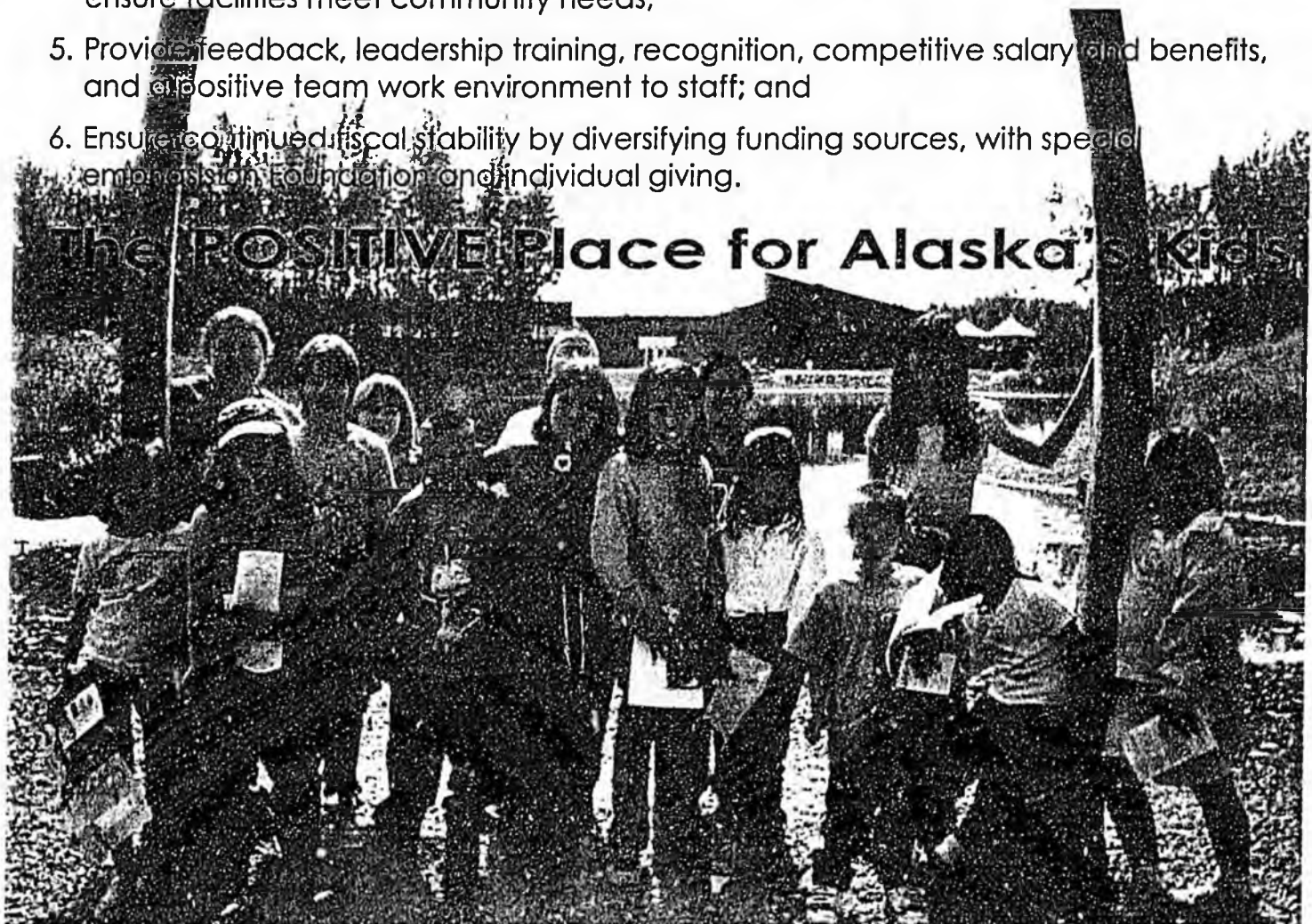
Our Values

Integrity, inclusiveness, inspiration and empowerment of youth

Our Strategy

1. Meet each community's needs through existing and expanding programs, with a focus on teen programs, family support programs and education and career development;
2. Increase public awareness of Boys & Girls Clubs' programs;
3. Diversify the Board of Directors and volunteer base for inclusiveness and strengthen each member's participation and leadership potential;
4. Increase outreach by adding or enlarging Boys & Girls Clubs throughout Alaska and ensure facilities meet community needs;
5. Provide feedback, leadership training, recognition, competitive salary and benefits, and a positive team work environment to staff; and
6. Ensure continued fiscal stability by diversifying funding sources, with special emphasis on Foundation and individual giving.

The POSITIVE Place for Alaska's Kids





BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

2002 Clubs



Youth Suicide Prevention Project Goal

Boys & Girls Clubs goal is to inspire and empower Alaskan youth to excel in school and realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

Objective #1
Membership numbers will increase by 20% over the previous school year by the end of the academic school year as indicated by membership records.

Objective #2
Daily attendance at the Clubhouse will increase by 30% over the previous school year by the end of the academic school year as indicated by daily attendance rosters.

Objective #3
20 youth will participate in two educational programs by the end of the first semester of the academic school year as indicated by program attendance rosters.

Objective #4
20 youth will participate in two teen specific programs by the end of the academic school year as indicated by program attendance rosters.

Activity #1
The Branch Manager will outreach to 5 schools. Tasks include attending school open houses and disseminating information about the Clubhouse and programs available in a monthly newsletter.

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Activity #1
A Senior Instructor will implement Power Hour, a homework help and tutoring program. Staff will recruit 10 youth to the program and submit quarterly attendance and progress reports.

Activity #1
A Senior Instructor will implement Keystone Club, a leadership Club for 14 to 18 year olds. Staff will recruit 10 youth to the Club and submit quarterly attendance and project reports.

Activity #2
The Branch Manager will host two Club open houses each year in order to outreach to youth and families new to the community.

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The Branch Manager will host two Club open houses each year in order to outreach to youth and families new to the community.

Activity #2
A Senior Instructor will implement Goals for Graduation, a grade goal-setting and tutoring program. Staff will recruit 10 youth to the program and submit quarterly attendance and progress reports.

Activity #2
A Senior Instructor will implement NIKE SWOOSH Club, an athletic-based leadership program. Staff will recruit 10 youth to the program and submit quarterly attendance and activity reports.

Please note: The above chart was created as a project template. Outreach and youth served will vary per Club. Objectives will be modified to reflect the size and need of the community and members.

Cause of Death Rank, Number and Rate of Suicide – ALASKA 1998

	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>
All races, both sexes, all ages	5	131	23.7
Male		105	32.7
Female		26	8.8
White		75	16.4
Native		50	48.4
All other		6	10.4

White male		62	25.9
White female		13	6.0

Native male		38	73.5
Native female		12	23.2

All races, both sexes, AGE

5-14	15-24	25-34	
	# rate	# rate	
-----	44 53.8	23 26	

Suicide by Regional Corporation of Residence by Race 1998

	Ahtna	Aleut	Arctic	Bering	Bristol	Calista	Chugach	Cook	Doyon	Koniag	NANA	SEA	Outside	
White	1				1	1	1	36	21	2		8	4	75
Native			3	7	3	17		1	11	1	4	2		49
Other			1					3	2				1	7
Total	1	4	7	7	4	18		40	34	3	4	10	5	131

Suicide Death Rates Alaska

1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
26.6	21.0	22.8	21.7	23.7

Source: Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics

Cause of Death Rank, Number and Rate of Suicide – US 1998

	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>
All races, both sexes, all ages	8	30,575	11.3
5 - 14	6	324	0.8
15 - 24	3	4,135	11.1
25 - 44	4	12,202	14.6
45 - 64	8	8,094	14.1
65+		(5,820)	
	M F	M F	M F
All races, by sex, all ages	8 -	24,538 (6,037)	18.6 -
5 - 14	4 6	241 83	1.2 0.4
15 - 24	3 4	3,532 603	18.5 3.3
25 - 44	3 4	9,700 2,502	23.5 6.0
45 - 64	8 9	6,201 1,893	22.4 6.4
65 +	- -	(4,864) (956)	- -
Total Suicides		30,575	
White Suicides		27,648	
White Male Suicides		22,174	
		Total Male Suicides	24,538
		White Male Suicides	22,174

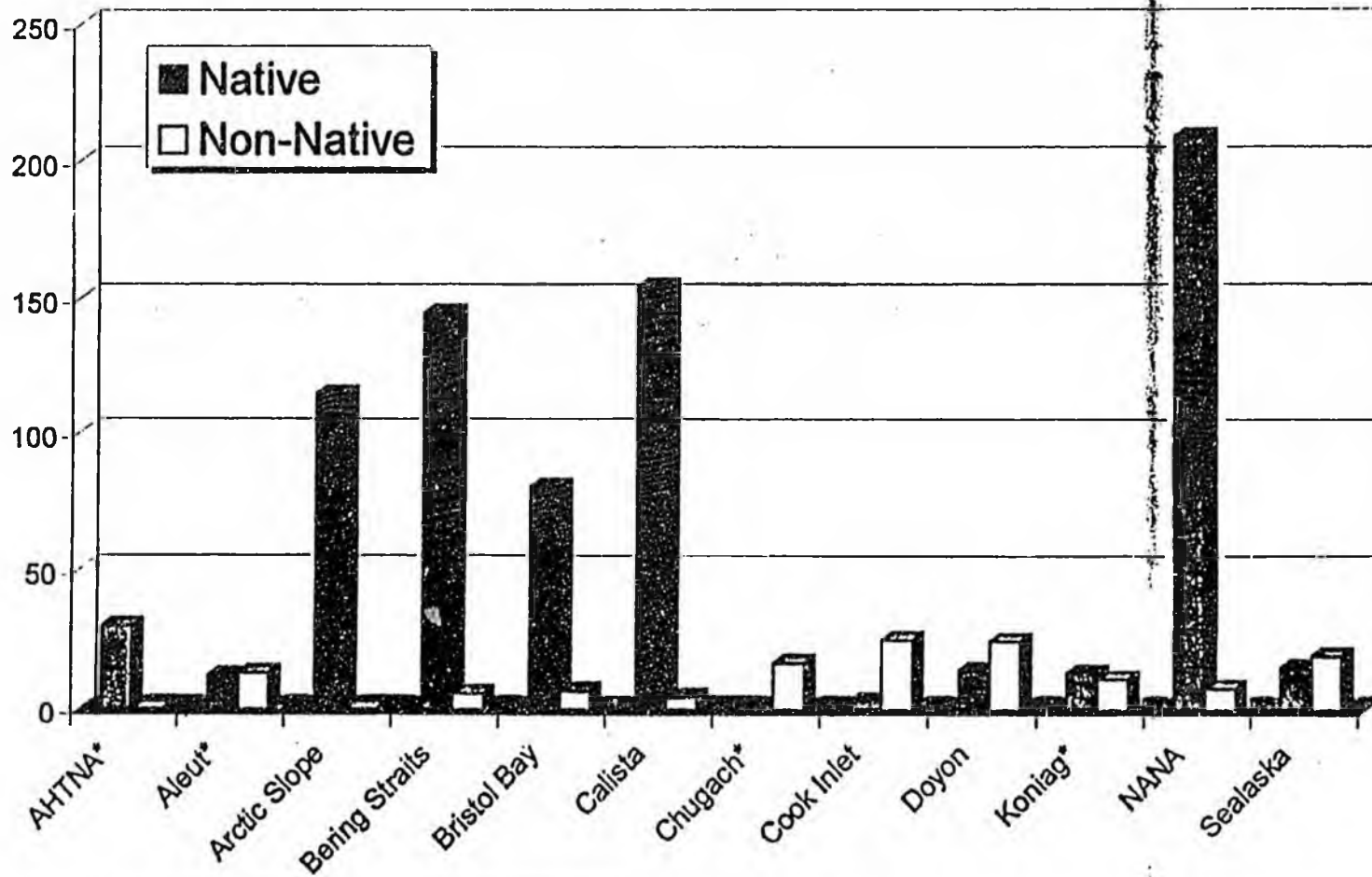
Source: National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol.48, No. 11, July 24, 2000

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES

Suicide 1998 US and Alaska

Rate	US	Alaska
All	11.3	23.7
Male	18.6	32.7
Female	(Not in top 10 causes of death)	8.8
White Male		25.9
Native Male		73.5
White Female		6.0
Native Female		23.2
All, ages 15-24	11.1	53.8
All, ages 25-44	14.6	
25-34		26

Age-Adjusted Suicide Rates by Native Regional Corporation, 1995 - 1997



Distribution of Alaska Native Suicides By Age 1990 - 1994

The average number of suicides by Alaska Natives per year over the five years 1990 - 1994 is 46

<u>Age Group</u>	<u># of suicides</u>	<u>% of suicides</u>
19 and less	9.2	20%
20-29	22.4	49%
30-39	9.2	20%
40 and up	5.2	11%

69% of all suicides by Alaska Natives were committed by persons younger than 30.

Almost half were committed by persons in their twenties.

