

**SB**

**37**

<TARGET><BILL>SB 37</BILL><SUBJECT>SB  
37</SUBJECT><COMM>HF IN28</COMM></TARGET>



# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2013 Legislative Session

Bill Version: SB 37  
Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier: SB037-DHSS-SPC-3-25-13  
Title: EXTEND SUICIDE PREVENTION COUNCIL  
Sponsor: FAIRCLOUGH  
Requester: House Finance Committee

Department: Department of Health and Social Services  
Appropriation: Behavioral Health  
Allocation: Suicide Prevention Council  
OMB Component Number: 2651

**Expenditures/Revenues**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2014	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2014 Request	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>
Personal Services		92.4	92.4	92.4	92.4	92.4	92.4
Travel		38.7	38.7	38.7	38.7	38.7	38.7
Services		51.3	51.3	51.3	51.3	51.3	51.3
Commodities		3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits		415.0	415.0	415.0	415.0	415.0	415.0
Miscellaneous							
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>600.9</b>	<b>600.9</b>	<b>600.9</b>	<b>600.9</b>	<b>600.9</b>	<b>600.9</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

1037 GF/MH		600.9	600.9	600.9	600.9	600.9	600.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>600.9</b>	<b>600.9</b>	<b>600.9</b>	<b>600.9</b>	<b>600.9</b>	<b>600.9</b>

**Positions**

Full-time		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Part-time							
Temporary							

<b>Change in Revenues</b>							
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2013) cost: 0.0

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0

**ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS**

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No  
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:**

To comply with the customary procedure for reauthorization (sunset) bills.
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Prepared By: Melissa Stone, Director  
Division: Behavioral Health  
Approved By: Sarah Woods, Deputy Director  
Finance & Management Services

Phone: (907)269-3410  
Date: 03/25/2013 03:00 PM  
Date: 03/25/13

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 037

**Analysis**

The bill extends the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council for six years. This permits the Council to continue to coordinate and support statewide suicide prevention efforts under the state plan, *Casting the Net Upstream: Promoting Wellness to Prevent Suicide*.

Assumptions –

The Governor's FY2014 Budget includes costs associated with current operations. In the out-years from FY2015 through FY2019, current funding levels are maintained.

Program Summary –

The Statewide Suicide Prevention Council consists of seventeen governor appointed members from the State Division of Behavioral Health, Alaska State Representatives and Senators, board members from the Alaska Mental Health Board and Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the Alaska Federation of Natives, clergy, general public, student and youth representatives, and the military. The Council advises the governor and legislature on issues relating to suicide. In collaboration with communities, faith-based organizations, and public-private entities, the Council works to improve the health and wellness of Alaskans by reducing suicide and its effect on individuals and communities.

The Council's budget supports the following:

**Administrative Costs: \$600.9**

Positions/Personal Services – \$92.4

- 1.0 FTE Project Assistant, PCN 06-0529, Range 16 (\$55.2 salary plus \$37.2 benefits)

Other Expenditures –

- Travel for the group to meet quarterly in order to better understand and comprehend the complexities of suicide in Alaska and to share this information with other Alaskans: \$38.7
- Leased office space, printing/copying for resource materials and prevention information, teleconferencing and video conferencing, Human Resource, telecommunication, and mail service costs allocated from the Department: \$51.3
- Meeting and business supplies: \$3.5
- School Based Suicide Prevention Grants: \$415.0



# Alaska State Legislature

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## Senator Anna Fairclough — Senate District M

### Sponsor Statement

### Senate Bill 37

"An Act extending the termination date of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council; and providing for an effective date."

In 2001 the Alaska State Legislature created the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council. The Council is made up of 17 members: two appointed by the president of the senate, two appointed by the speaker of the house, and 13 members appointed by the governor.

The duties of the Council are outlined in statute 44.29.350:

- Improve health and wellness throughout the state by reducing suicide and its effects on individuals, families and communities;
- Broaden Alaskans' awareness of suicide and the role of risk and protective factors in suicide;
- Enhance Alaska's suicide prevention services and programs;
- Develop healthy communities through comprehensive, collaborative, community-based and faith-based approaches implemented at the community level and supported by regional, state, and federal resources;
- Develop and implement a statewide suicide prevention plan; and
- Strengthen existing and build new partnerships between public and private entities that will advance suicide prevention efforts in the state.

Alaska has the highest rate of suicide per capita in the country. The Council has designed a state plan of action for preventing suicide. This plan, *Casting the Net Upstream*, promotes wellness to prevent suicide in Alaska.

I appreciate your support and consideration of this legislation.



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of  
Health and Social Services

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

P.O. Box 110693  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0693  
Main: 907.465.3250  
Fax: 907.465.1398

February 21, 2013

The Honorable Pete Kelly, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
Alaska Capitol, Rooms 516 & 518  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

**Subject: Support for SB 37, Extension of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council**

Dear Senator Kelly & Senator Meyer:

The Alaska Commission on Aging encourages support for SB 37, a bill to extend the sunset date for the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council sponsored by Senator Fairclough and co-sponsored by Senators Dyson, Ellis, Gardner and French.

Suicide affects all Alaskans across the life span and cuts across economic, social and ethnic boundaries. Alaska continues to have one of the highest suicide rates in the nation with young Native men being most at risk. Suicide rates are also higher for older Alaskans (age 65+) than their U.S. senior counterparts. Suicide attempts are the third highest cause of nonfatal hospitalized injuries for Alaskans age 55 and older.

The Statewide Suicide Prevention Council was created in 2001 to advise the Legislature and the Governor on ways to improve health and wellness for Alaskans by reducing suicide, building partnerships to enhance suicide prevention efforts, developing and implementing a statewide suicide prevention plan, among other important activities. The Council has been proactive in engaging partners and making information and training available to communities and partners statewide in suicide prevention coordinating with community coalitions, tribal organizations, health care providers, communities of faith and other groups so that access to suicide prevention awareness materials and other resources can be used and shared.

The Alaska Commission on Aging respectfully asks for your support of SB 37. Suicide devastates families and communities. The Statewide Suicide Prevention Council is a valuable part of Alaska's efforts to reduce and prevent suicide. Please feel free to contact Denise Daniello, ACoA's executive director (465-4879), should you have any questions regarding our position.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Paula Pawlowski in black ink.

Paula Pawlowski  
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Denise Daniello in black ink.

Denise Daniello  
ACoA Executive Director

Cc: Senator Fairclough, Vice Chair & Bill Sponsor  
Senator Dunleavy  
Senator Bishop

Senator Olson  
Senator Hoffman



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of Health & Social Services**

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES  
& SPECIAL EDUCATION  
Teresa Holt, Executive Director

3601 C Street, Suite 740  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5924  
Main: 907.269.8990  
Toll Free: 1.888.269.8990  
Fax: 907.269.8995

February 27, 2013

Senator Anna Fairclough  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Building, Room 514  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: SB 37 Extending the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council

Dear Senator Fairclough,

Thank you for sponsoring SB 37, which would extend the termination date of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council (SSPC) until 2019.

The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (the Council) advocates for change that improves the lives of individuals with disabilities. One of the roles of the Council is to serve as Alaska's State Council on Developmental Disabilities to ensure individuals with developmental disabilities receive the supports and services they need.

The Council recognizes that suicide has been a tragic issue for Alaskans for many years and supports SB 37, which will extend the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council. The SSPC works with the state to find ways to improve Alaskan's health and wellness, educate the public about suicide and its risk factors in an effort to reduce the number of suicides in our state. The SSPC hosted a suicide prevention summit, established regional suicide prevention teams, works with the Department of Education and Early Development to assist school districts in providing evidenced based prevention programs in local schools.

The Council commends this effort to prevent suicide in Alaska. The Council recognizes that the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council is a valuable part of Alaska's efforts to reduce and prevent suicide. The Council strongly supports SB 37 extending the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council.

Respectfully,

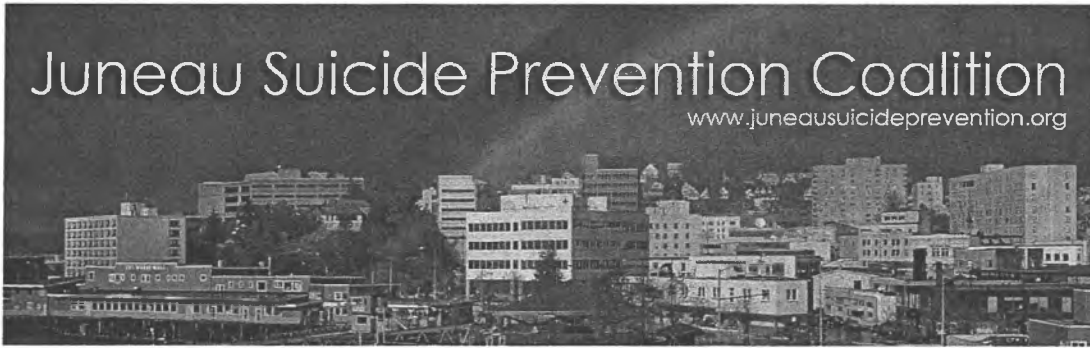
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Gebhart".

Eric Gebhart  
Council Chair

*Creating Change That Improves the Lives of People with Disabilities*

# Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition

[www.juneausuicideprevention.org](http://www.juneausuicideprevention.org)



February 21, 2013

The Honorable Anna Fairclough  
State Capitol, Room 514  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Fairclough,

On behalf of the Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition, I am writing in support of the continuation of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council.

The Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition, established in 2008, is an active coalition of mental health/social service providers, educators, survivors, faith-based community, law enforcement, veteran's advocates, concerned citizens, community groups, and other dedicated community members working together to maintain community wide suicide awareness and prevention in Juneau.

Our Coalition is committed to reducing the loss and suffering caused by suicide and suicidal behavior in Juneau. The Coalition offers information and education about issues relating to suicide, as well as support to families and community members who have lost loved ones to suicide. It is our hope that through our efforts we can lessen the incidence of suicide and the stigma associated with suicide loss.

Year after year suicide continues to be a significant issue in our state, and now the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council's work and presence is more important and relevant than ever. Alaska's suicide rates continue to be twice as high as the national average. With Alaska's population of smaller, tight knit communities these losses have a tremendous effect on all of us.

In January 2010 the Statewide Council brought various entities and stakeholders together to discuss and share suicide prevention efforts across the state. The Council published a comprehensive statewide suicide prevention plan, *Casting The Net Upstream: Promoting Wellness to Prevent Suicide*, to promote healthy Alaskan's and strengthen the ties across our state.

Because of the distance between communities within our state, communication and collaboration on a statewide level has proven difficult. The presence of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council has helped to bridge the gaps between these communities so that we can share ideas and work together as one state in a coordinated and consistent fashion to prevent suicides throughout Alaska. Please extend the Council's statutory authority, since they continue to play a vital role in our state.

Sincerely

Walter Majoros  
Co-Chair



Senator Anna Fairclough  
State Capitol Room 514  
Juneau AK, 99801

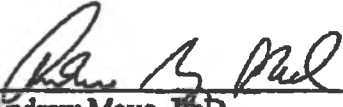
Dear Senator Fairclough,


Please accept this statement as support by North Star Behavioral Health and The Jason Foundation support for SB 37, the reauthorization of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council.

We view the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council as essential to continuing the momentum in the prevention of suicide in Alaska. The Statewide Suicide Prevention Council has been important in facilitating the organization and collaboration of suicide prevention efforts throughout Alaska. North Star Behavioral Health, The Jason Foundation, and numerous other community organizations and groups have worked together with the Suicide Prevention Council to heighten awareness and education related to suicide prevention. The commitment displayed by J. Kate Burkhart and the rest of the members of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council has led to positive community change efforts throughout Alaska.

We value the support that is provided by the members of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council in the efforts through both North Star Behavioral Health and The Jason Foundation to prevent youth suicide in Alaska.

Thank you,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
M. Andrew Mayo, PhD  
CEO, North Star Behavioral Health

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ann Schaack, LCSW  
Director, North Star Behavioral Health  
Representative for The Jason Foundation