

**HB**

**23**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 23</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
23</SUBJECT><COMM>HEDC29</COMM></TARGET>

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

## **HB23: "Erin's Law"**

*Request for a Bill Hearing*

To: Representative Wes Keller, Chair, House Education Committee

From: Representative Geran Tarr, Prime Sponsor, HB23 *GT*

Date: January 21, 2015

As prime sponsor of HB23, Erin's Law, I would like to request a hearing on HB23 by the House Education Committee. Attached is the sponsor statement, sectional analysis of the latest bill version, copies of all bill versions, fiscal notes, support documents, letters of support, and list of testifiers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geran Tarr".

Rep. Geran Tarr

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

## **HB23: "Erin's Law"**

### *Sponsor Statement*

Child abuse in Alaska is a chronic and devastating problem. In 2013, Office of Children's Services statistics show that there were 2,296 allegations of child sexual abuse with 1,817 unique victims, over 40% of whom were Alaska Native children. 884 of these cases were sent to law enforcement and OCS went on to assess 809 allegations. The trend of high rates of abuse in Alaska must stop and prevention efforts are critical to that effort. We must break the cycle of abuse and give Alaskans the tools they need to protect themselves and help others.

This bill requires school districts to develop age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in grades kindergarten through 12. The bill is part of a national effort to enact "Erin's Law" in all fifty states ([www.erinslaw.org](http://www.erinslaw.org)). Erin Merryn is a survivor of childhood sexual abuse and made it her mission to have legislation passed across the country giving children the tools to protect themselves from abuse and school staff and administrators the ability to recognize the signs of abuse.

"Had someone taught me about safe touch, unsafe touch, safe secrets, and unsafe secrets, I would have known it was safe to tell. Instead I lived in my horror in silence. I am now on a mission to give children across this country the voice I never had as a child," said Merryn. To date, versions of Erin's Law have been enacted in eight states; twenty-five states, including Alaska, have a version of Erin's Law proposed this session.

This bill requires Alaska public schools to create age-appropriate curricula while allowing the flexibility to provide the training most beneficial to their community. Curricula should include warning signs of sexual abuse, referral and resource information, counseling and educational support, methods for increasing awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse of children, and actions a child may take to prevent and report sexual abuse or sexual assault. In many cases, by the time anyone other than the perpetrator and the victim know of the abuse, it is too late to stop it. Current numbers show that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused before the age of 18. While teachers and administrators within the state say some education is happening to lower these numbers, they agree that we need to do more.

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

I ask for your consideration and support for Erin's Law to give Alaskans the tools they need to recognize signs of abuse, to protect themselves and their children, and to escape violence.

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

## **HB23: “Erin’s Law”**

### *Sectional Analysis*

#### Section 1:

- Amends the Alaska Statutes by adding a new section for Erin’s Law.

#### Section 2:

- Section (a) requires all Alaska school districts to adopt and implement a mandatory sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention training program for students K through 12 and employees.
- Section (b) lists the requirements for the policy, training, and notice to parents, students, and staff.

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2014 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 233  
Fiscal Note Number: 1  
(H) Publish Date: 3/28/14

Identifier: HB233-EED-SSA-3-23-14  
Title: SEXUAL ABUSE/ASSAULT PREVENTION PROGRAMS  
Sponsor: \*\* TARR, GARA  
Requester: House Education Committee

Department: Department of Education and Early Development  
Appropriation: Teaching and Learning Support  
Allocation: Student and School Achievement  
OMB Component Number: 2796

**Expenditures/Revenues**

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

	FY2015 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2015 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

None								
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Positions**

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

<b>Change in Revenues</b>								
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**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2014) cost:** 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)  
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2015) cost:** 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)  
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

**ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS**

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? Yes  
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 12/31/14

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

Initial version
-----------------

Prepared By:	Dr. Susan McCauley	Phone:	(907)465-8686
Division:	Director, Teaching and Learning Support	Date:	03/21/20 01:45 PM
Approved By:	Mike Hanley	Date:	03/23/14
Agency:	Commissioner		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS #1

STATE OF ALASKA  
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 233

**Analysis**

Sec. 2 AS 14.30 (a) requires school boards to adopt and implement a policy that mandates a training program for employees and students (K-12) related to sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention. Any costs will reside with the school districts.



# LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICES

Alaska State Legislature  
Division of Legal and Research Services  
State Capitol, Juneau, AK 99801

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(907) 465-3908 fax  
research@legis.state.ak.us

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## Research Brief

TO: Representative Geran Tarr  
FROM: Tim Spengler, Legislative Analyst  
DATE: February 17, 2014  
RE: Alaska Child Sexual Abuse Statistics, Fiscal Year 2013  
*LRS Report 14.254*

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***You asked for information on child sexual abuse allegations in Alaska for the most recent year available.***

---

The Office of Children's Services (OCS), Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, provided us with the sexual abuse allegation data below.<sup>1</sup>

### ***Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse Received by the Office of Children's Services in FY 2013<sup>2</sup>***

- 2,296 total allegations received, involving 1,817 unique alleged child victims<sup>3</sup>
  - Of these allegations, 971 were in the Anchorage Region, 286 in Northern Region, 575 in Southcentral Region, 242 in Southeast Region, and 222 in Western Region
- 1,487 allegations were *screened out*, of which 884 were *screened out* to law enforcement<sup>4</sup>
- 809 allegations were *screened in* for initial assessment<sup>5</sup>

Of the 809 allegations *screened in*:

- 126 allegations were *substantiated*, involving 117 unique child victims
- 646 allegations were *not substantiated*<sup>6</sup>
- 37 allegations were in initial assessments that were closed without finding<sup>7</sup>

Of the 1,817 alleged child victims:

- 1,245 were female

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<sup>1</sup> Naomi Harris, OCS Community Relations Manager can be reached at (907)465-3548. Definitions in the footnotes come from OCS Child Protective Services Manual (<http://dhss.alaska.gov/ocs/Documents/Publications/CPSManual/cps-manual.pdf>).

<sup>2</sup> What constitutes child sexual abuse is discussed in Alaska's Child in Need of Aid (CINA) statutes at AS 47.10.011(7).

<sup>3</sup> One or more allegations may be associated with a single incident of abuse. The number of allegations should not be interpreted as the number of incidents.

<sup>4</sup> A report is *screened out* when OCS determines the information received does not meet the definition of maltreatment (as described in AS 47.10.011) or for any of the following reasons: insufficient information to locate, multiple reports on same incident, child residing out-of-state, referred to a tribe that has exclusive jurisdiction, or referred to law enforcement. When allegations made to OCS are *screened out* to law enforcement, it generally means that the abuse was allegedly perpetrated by an individual who resides outside the child's home. These cases are investigated by law enforcement personnel.

<sup>5</sup> During the initial assessment OCS gathers information to determine whether the child is unsafe or at high risk of maltreatment and the extent of the familial protective capacities. A report is *screened in* when the information received indicates a child may be unsafe or at high risk of maltreatment by a primary caregiver, parent, custodian or guardian.

<sup>6</sup> At the conclusion of an investigation, OCS determines that an allegation was *substantiated* or *not substantiated*. A *substantiated* finding is one where the available facts indicate a child suffered harm as a result of abuse or neglect as defined by AS 47.17.290. A *not substantiated* finding is one where, based on the available facts, the worker is unable to determine if a child suffered harm as a result of abuse or neglect, or where there are no facts to support the allegation that a child suffered abuse or neglect.

<sup>7</sup> An initial assessment may be closed without finding when the family cannot be located.

- 556 were male
- 16 the gender was unknown
- 747 were Native
- 951 were Non-Native
- 119 race was undetermined
  - Of the 1,817 alleged victims, 771 were in Anchorage Region, 238 in Northern Region, 485 in Southcentral Region, 183 in Southeast Region, and 147 in Western Region.<sup>8</sup>

We hope this is helpful. If you have questions or need additional information, please let us know.

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<sup>8</sup> Children may be alleged victims in one or more allegations and regions. In regional counts, alleged victims are counted once in each region reported. In Statewide counts, alleged victims are counted once. The sum of regional counts will not add to the statewide total.



## Empire Editorial: An ounce of prevention

Posted: January 25, 2015 - 12:02am

The 29th Alaska Legislature has the opportunity to right a serious wrong, something the Legislature before it failed to do.

A bill known best as "Erin's Law," which would incorporate age-appropriate education about childhood sexual abuse in all grade levels, will again go before lawmakers. The bill was snubbed after reaching the House Finance Committee in 2014, despite earning full approval by the House Education Committee. An identical bill cleared the Senate.

Erin Merryn, whom the bill is named after, visited Alaska last session to advocate its passing. After the bill was killed by House Finance (chaired at the time by Capitol-move supporter Rep. Bill Stoltze, R-Chugiak), Merryn on her Facebook page blamed politics and "people on the committee that think this law is 'sex ed.'"

"I won't be returning to Alaska," she wrote. "I will leave it up to the people of Alaska to convince ... representatives to protect kids instead of failing them."

It's sad some lawmakers need convincing. Childhood sexual abuse is prevalent enough from Barrow to Ketchikan that it can't be ignored. Few things are as deplorable as preying on child victims.

The Office of Children's Services reported 2,296 allegations of child sexual abuse directed at 1,118 victims in 2013. Forty percent of the victims were Alaska Native. There are 2,296 reasons Erin's Law should have passed last year.

Saying Erin's Law is sex education is like saying swimming is fishing. Alaska's children have a higher chance of being sexually abused than children do in Lower 48. The disparity for youngsters in rural villages is even higher.

Our kids need to be armed with knowledge; it's the most valuable tool we can offer them. We teach our kids to "stop, drop and roll." We teach them to "just say no." They need to know how to respond to child predators, where to go for help, and most importantly that staying silent is never the answer. This is what Erin's Law will do and why 19 states have passed similar legislation.

Rep. Geran Tarr, D-Anchorage, sponsored the bill in 2014. This year she's co-sponsoring it with House Majority Leader Charisse Millet, R-Anchorage. Hopefully, bipartisan support in the House is enough to keep Erin's Law on track this time. Sen. Lesil McGuire, R-Anchorage, introduced the Senate version last year that won approval. We hope she'll champion it again.

Merryn's voice won't be heard this session; the rest of us must speak up. There's no place for partisan politicking when the future of our children is at stake. How we protect them is every bit as important to our state's future as gas pipelines, oil prices, roads and dams.

Erin's Law prevents future abuse through education, and as Benjamin Franklin famously said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

If lawmakers are serious about protecting Alaska's future, they'll ensure Erin's Law is passed. Salmon, oil and minerals aren't our most valuable resource — that honor goes to our kids, as it always should.

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## Alaska is ready to stand up to abuse

Story Comments

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Posted: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 11:20 pm

By David Holthouse

FAIRBANKS — When I was a little boy growing up in Anchorage, I knew just what to do if I caught on fire: "Stop, drop and roll." I knew because they taught me in school. Just like they later taught me, "Just say no" to drugs. It was mandatory.

What I didn't know is what to do after I was raped when I was seven years old. I didn't know what to do when the rapist threatened to kill me and my parents if I told. I didn't know what rape was. I thought it was a freak occurrence, making me a freak.

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THE ALASKA CLUB

And so I didn't tell. I kept it to myself for 25 years. I suffered in silence. The same as thousands upon thousands of Alaska victims of childhood sexual abuse are suffering now, no matter what their age. Suffering without the tools they need to cope and expose their abusers.

Abuse can be overwhelming. But, fortunately, the legislature is close to making real progress in giving Alaska kids tools they need to stand up to this abuse. It's time to pass "Erin's Law."

Erin Merryn made a strong impression when she shared her story with legislators last year in Juneau. Erin was sexually abused by a family member as a child. Now a leader in preventing abuse, she is determined to see all 50 states adopt "Erin's Law."

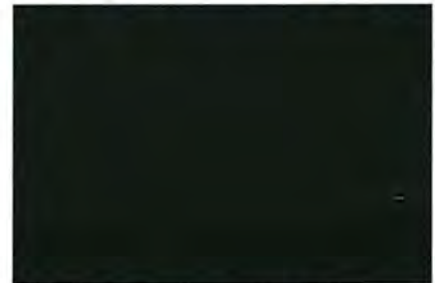
Erin's Law requires school districts to provide age-appropriate curriculum about personal body safety. It also gives teachers, staff, and administrators the tools they need to respond properly to allegations of child sexual abuse.

Erin's Law's catchphrase is "Get Away, Tell Today."

That message cannot be spread or strengthened enough. To that end, I implore you to contact your state representative. Urge them to pass Erin's Law this legislative session.

Nineteen states have passed Erin's Law. Last year, Erin's Law passed in the Alaska Senate

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but failed to pass in the Alaska House of Representatives. I applaud the North Star Borough School Board for voting unanimously to adopt Erin's Law in local schools last summer. Now, it's time for the rest of the state's students to be covered as well. With early bi-partisan support, there's no reason Erin's Law can not become law early this year.

Because abuse is not a freak occurrence. One in six boys. One in four girls. One in six boys and one in four girls in the United States are sexually abused, nine times out of 10 by someone they know.

We teach kids what to do if there is a fire, an earthquake, or another emergency. But, we must face the reality that more of these students will be harmed by sexual abuse than by these other threats. Teaching kids about personal body safety is essential to keeping them safe. Let your legislator know that it's time to pass Erin's Law.

*David Holthouse is an award-winning reporter who lives in Anchorage.*

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# Alaska Legislature can have an impact on abuse now if it passes Erin's Law

Geran Tarr, Erin Merryin | August 4, 2014



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**OPINION:** The Legislature is close to making real progress in giving our Alaska kids the tools they need to stand up to sexual abuse. But, we need to follow through and pass this priority legislation known as Erin's law.

*Aaron Jansen illustration*

Nothing like putting kids in a headline to grab your attention. But lately, these headlines aren't what we'd like to see. Just since May, we've seen stories on child sex abuse from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Barrow, Ketchikan, Kobuk, Big Lake, Petersburg, Juneau, and Nikiski to name a few. The Office of Children's Services received 78 allegations of child sexual abuse in the month of May alone. And this is just the abuse that's been reported.

Fortunately, the Legislature is close to making real progress in giving our kids tools they need to stand up to this abuse. But, we need to follow through and pass this priority legislation known as Erin's Law. Erin's Law would require school districts to present students with age-appropriate curriculum about personal body safety. It would also give teachers, staff, and administrators the tools they need to respond properly to allegations of child sexual abuse.

The need is real and the numbers can be overwhelming. One in four girls and one out of six boys will be sexually assaulted before they turn eighteen. Evidence tells us that 90 percent of these victims will be abused by someone they know and trust — a family friend, coach, camp counselor, babysitter — and we know that most perpetrators abuse dozens, even hundreds of victims before they are caught. In Alaska, there were more than 2,000 allegations of child sexual abuse in 2013.

Tragically, in most cases, the only person talking to victims about the abuse is the perpetrator, who tells this child that they must keep the abuse a secret, they will get in trouble for telling someone, or that someone they love might be hurt. The best way to end this ongoing silent epidemic and empower children to speak up is to bring the conversation out into the open and teach children that it is OK, in fact encouraged, to speak up if they, or someone they know, is being abused.

We teach kids what to do if there is a fire, an earthquake, or another emergency. But, we must face the reality that more of these students will be harmed by sexual abuse than by these other threats. Teaching kids about personal body safety is essential to keeping them safe.

So far, eighteen states have enacted a version of Erin's Law. With Erin's help, House Bill 233, a version of this bill for Alaska, was introduced last session. Another version of the bill passed unanimously in the Senate, but failed to pass the House by the end of the session. The goal is to have all 50 states adopt Erin's Law.

We shudder to think if even one case of child sexual abuse could have been prevented if we had acted more quickly. The Legislature can and must take action next January and pass Erin's Law, but why wait to do something that can have a positive impact for thousands of students statewide?

School districts can begin working to implement a child sexual abuse prevention curriculum now. We applaud the efforts of the Fairbanks School District which is considering adoption of an "Erin's Policy" for their school district at their regular meeting on August 5. We call on school districts statewide to consider taking action now.



Let's teach our kids what they need to stay safe. Let's look forward to some headlines about kids we'd be proud to read.

**Rep. Geran Tarr** represents District 17 in the Alaska House of Representatives. **Erin Merryn** is an advocate, author of three books, new Mom to Abigail, and in June was featured in People magazine as one of "15 Women Changing the World."

*The views expressed here are the writer's own and are not necessarily endorsed by Alaska Dispatch News, which welcomes a broad range of viewpoints. To submit a piece for consideration, email [commentary\(at\)alaskadispatch.com](mailto:commentary(at)alaskadispatch.com).*

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# Transforming Communities to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation:

## A Primary Prevention Approach

This document was prepared by Prevention Institute.

Principal authors are:

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**This policy brief presents the distilled research and critical thinking of a diverse group of local and national experts in the field of child sexual abuse and exploitation.** Prevention Institute assembled this team and coordinated their efforts with the generous funding and support of the Ms. Foundation for Women.\* Via candid dialog and interviews, these leaders developed and prioritized primary prevention strategies, analyzed environmental factors and norms that perpetuate these problems, and outlined policies and practices for transforming our communities and our nation during these turbulent political and economic times. This brief focuses especially on strategies that build on previous successes within this field and hold the greatest promise for transforming communities and preventing child abuse and exploitation.

We thank these leaders for their dedication to the field and for their thoughtful insights throughout this process. Likewise, we thank the Ms. Foundation for Women for sponsoring this vital initiative.

**Sandra Alexander**

Expert Consultant in Child Maltreatment  
CDC, Division of Violence Prevention

**Cordelia Anderson**

Chair  
National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation

**Jetta Bernier**

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**Suzanne Brown-McBride**

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Vice President of Programs  
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**Gena Fitzgerald**

Executive Director  
Journalism Center for Children and Families

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**Jean Kilbourne**

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**Sally Thigpen**

State-wide Coordinator  
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\* Prevention Institute materials are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official positions of the Ms. Foundation for Women.

## OVERVIEW

*“I have a ten-year-old daughter and a five-year-old boy. I want the world my children grow up in to be one where my daughter can live free of violence and my son will be expected to treat all women with respect. We need to invest at a level where we can create this future for our kids.”*

Jim Hafner, Stop It Now! National Office

### Preventing Abuse Before it Occurs: A Primary Prevention Approach

Over the last 30 years, advocates have worked hard to successfully educate us in child sexual abuse and its detrimental effects on children and society. Leaders and the general public alike have a greater understanding of the issue, and this awareness has reached a tipping point over the last ten years, resulting in mobilized groups advocating for social and political solutions to abuse. So far, the response to these demands has largely focused on after-the-fact actions like incarceration and individual protection efforts such as Internet safety campaigns. The next step requires expanding the overarching dialog, moving from a focus on the individual and after-the-fact efforts to an approach that can prevent child sexual abuse from ever happening. A primary prevention approach prevents abuse before it happens by addressing the environmental factors and societal norms that contribute to its occurrence in the first place. Leaders agree that the movement is poised for a greater emphasis on primary prevention, which honors and builds upon past successes and complements the field’s continued commitment to improving responses to this critical issue. This shift will require an increased effort to advance promising primary prevention approaches—essential to achieving dramatic reductions in rates of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

A primary prevention approach to child sexual abuse and exploitation promotes safe, healthy environments and behaviors, reducing the likelihood of abuse<sup>1</sup> in the first place. This approach is often confused with early intervention services for victims and perpetrators. Interventions, such as universal screening in health care settings, may help to alleviate trauma and potentially prevent future incidences; however, early identification is subsequent to actual or threatened violence and seldom alters the broader community and societal environment that gave rise to the violence. Primary prevention moves far upstream to change the environmental factors—such as economic inequalities, sexism, media, and marketing practices—that

*We must begin to shift our focus from individuals to environments, from fear to wellness, and build national momentum for a balanced, targeted investment in quality prevention strategies.*

*A primary prevention approach to child sexual abuse and exploitation promotes safe, healthy environments and behaviors, reducing the likelihood of abuse in the first place.*

shape norms and behaviors of an entire population. Primary prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation is a systemic process capable of dramatically reshaping our environment and norms. It is a crucial component of community wellness.

Our success in preventing child sexual abuse depends on our ability to maintain a coordinated, comprehensive effort. Research confirms that the issue is deeply rooted in our environment and reinforced by our societal norms. It touches every community—the latest data reports that one in four girls and one in seven boys will be the victim of some type of sexual abuse/assault before age 18.<sup>2</sup> These numbers do not include the various ways children are sexually exploited through technology, pornography, and other commercial sexual exploitation. Further, we know that victims of abuse are at an increased risk for alcoholism, depression, sexually transmitted infections, intimate partner violence, and suicide attempts.<sup>3</sup> The statistics provide an important challenge to our current norms and environments for children and adults: We must begin to shift our focus from individuals to environments, from fear to wellness, and build national momentum for a balanced, targeted investment in quality prevention strategies.

Quality prevention strategies counter environmental factors that support child sexual abuse and exploitation. Examples of these environmental factors include increased marketing towards children and a pervasive media presence with drastically high levels of sexualized messages and rigid gender roles. Root factors, such as marginalization—which increases the risks and decreases the resilience within specific communities—have not been widely acknowledged in policies and practices addressing child sexual abuse and exploitation. As one leader said, “There must be an increased awareness that child sexual abuse and exploitation does not occur in isolation, but instead, stems from deeply rooted social inequities and environmental influences.” These factors are relevant to all communities, and we can focus on them via comprehensive prevention initiatives. As a more progressive agenda is gaining momentum nationally, we have a prime opportunity to examine the current context and push for community transformation on multiple levels, incorporating successful projects from around the nation that help build resilience and protective factors at the individual and community levels. It is also a key moment to organize support for elected officials willing to adopt a legislative agenda that promotes healthy environments for all communities.

*This brief is designed for advocates, practitioners, government officials, and funders who are interested in transforming broad social norms and our communities in order to prevent child sexual abuse and exploitation before it occurs.* The following pages lay out a primary prevention approach with a special focus on effecting change by influencing policies and altering organizational practices. We begin with a short discussion of emerging environmental challenges followed by an examination of specific norms that contribute to child sexual abuse and exploitation. The third section, grounded in the belief that a single individual or sector cannot address the problem in isolation, provides the framework for a comprehensive strategy across the *Spectrum of Prevention* (see Figure 2, page 8) designed to transform environments so all children can thrive in safe and supportive communities.

Fulle Article Available here:

[http://www.preventioninstitute.org/index.php?option=com\\_jlibrary&view=article&id=31&Itemid=127](http://www.preventioninstitute.org/index.php?option=com_jlibrary&view=article&id=31&Itemid=127)

# The Prevention of Childhood Sexual Abuse

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*David Finkelhor*

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## Summary

David Finkelhor examines initiatives to prevent child sexual abuse, which have focused on two primary strategies—offender management and school-based educational programs. Recent major offender management initiatives have included registering sex offenders, notifying communities about their presence, conducting background employment checks, controlling where offenders can live, and imposing longer prison sentences. Although these initiatives win approval from both the public and policy makers, little evidence exists that they are effective in preventing sexual abuse. Moreover, these initiatives, cautions Finkelhor, are based on an overly stereotyped characterization of sexual abusers as pedophiles, guileful strangers who prey on children in public and other easy-access environments and who are at high risk to re-offend once caught. In reality the population is much more diverse. Most sexual abusers are not strangers or pedophiles; many (about a third) are themselves juveniles. Many have relatively low risks for re-offending once caught. Perhaps the most serious shortcoming to offender management as a prevention strategy, Finkelhor argues, is that only a small percentage of new offenders have a prior sex offense record that would have involved them in the management system. He recommends using law enforcement resources to catch more undetected offenders and concentrating intensive management efforts on those at highest risk to re-offend.

Finkelhor explains that school-based educational programs teach children such skills as how to identify dangerous situations, refuse an abuser's approach, break off an interaction, and summon help. The programs also aim to promote disclosure, reduce self-blame, and mobilize bystanders. Considerable evaluation research exists about these programs, suggesting that they achieve certain of their goals. Research shows, for example, that young people can and do acquire the concepts. The programs may promote disclosure and help children not to blame themselves. But studies are inconclusive about whether education programs reduce victimization. Finkelhor urges further research and development of this approach, in particular efforts to integrate it into comprehensive health and safety promotion curricula.

Finkelhor also points to evidence that supports counseling strategies both for offenders, particularly juveniles, to reduce re-offending, and for victims, to prevent negative mental health and life course outcomes associated with abuse.

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

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David Finkelhor is the director of the Crimes against Children Research Center and a professor of sociology at the University of New Hampshire.

Full article available at:

[https://www.princeton.edu/futureofchildren/publications/docs/19\\_02\\_08.pdf](https://www.princeton.edu/futureofchildren/publications/docs/19_02_08.pdf)

NBER WORKING PAPER SERIES

DOES CHILD ABUSE CAUSE CRIME?

Janet Currie  
Erdal Tekin

Working Paper 12171  
<http://www.nber.org/papers/w12171>

NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH  
1050 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
April 2006

We would like to thank Neil Guterman, Christina Paxson, Chris Ruhm, Joyce Tabor, Volkan Topalli, and participants in seminars at the City University of New York, Columbia's School Social Work, Columbia's Teachers College, 2005 Population Association of America Meetings, 2005 IZA/SOLE Meetings, 2005 SEA Meetings, Georgia State University, MDRC, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Koc University for helpful comments. Roy Wada provided excellent research assistance. The views expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Bureau of Economic Research.

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Does Child Abuse Cause Crime?  
Janet Currie and Erdal Tekin  
NBER Working Paper No. 12171  
April 2006  
JEL No. I1, K4

### **ABSTRACT**

Child maltreatment, which includes both child abuse and child neglect, is a major social problem. This paper focuses on measuring the effects of child maltreatment on crime using data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health). We focus on crime because it is one of the most socially costly potential outcomes of maltreatment, and because the proposed mechanisms linking maltreatment and crime are relatively well elucidated in the literature. Our work addresses many limitations of the existing literature on child maltreatment. First, we use a large national sample, and investigate different types of abuse in a similar framework. Second, we pay careful attention to identifying the causal impact of abuse, by using a variety of statistical methods that make differing assumptions. These methods include: Ordinary Least Squares (OLS), propensity score matching estimators, and twin fixed effects. Finally, we examine the extent to which the effects of maltreatment vary with socio-economic status (SES), gender, and the severity of the maltreatment. We find that maltreatment approximately doubles the probability of engaging in many types of crime. Low SES children are both more likely to be mistreated and suffer more damaging effects. Boys are at greater risk than girls, at least in terms of increased propensity to commit crime. Sexual abuse appears to have the largest negative effects, perhaps justifying the emphasis on this type of abuse in the literature. Finally, the probability of engaging in crime increases with the experience of multiple forms of maltreatment as well as the experience of Child Protective Services (CPS) investigation.

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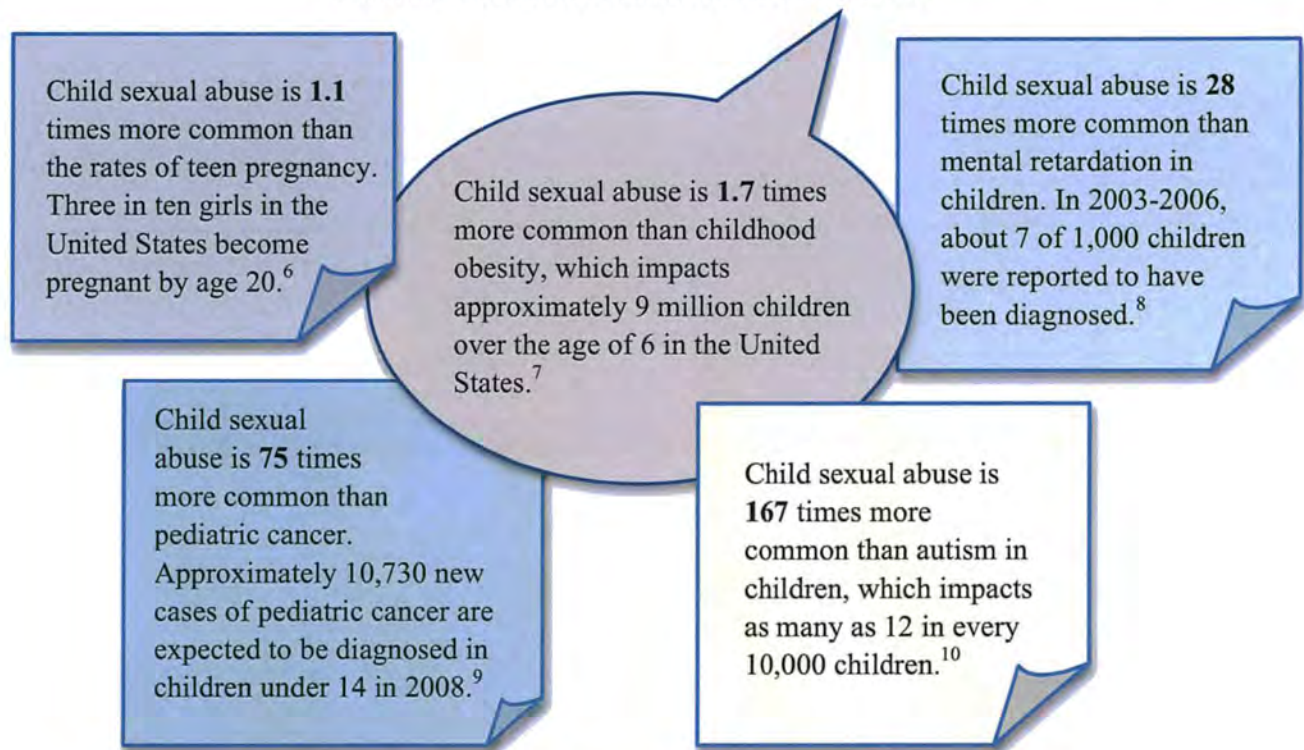
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Full paper available at: [http://www.nber.org/papers/w12171.pdf?new\\_window=1](http://www.nber.org/papers/w12171.pdf?new_window=1)

## FACTS FOR PREVENTION: The Health Impact on Children & Youth

One study suggests that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 7 boys will be the victim of some type of sexual abuse or assault before the age of 18.<sup>1</sup> With 75 million children in the United States,<sup>2</sup> this translates to almost 15 million children who will be sexually victimized and abused over the next 18 years.<sup>3</sup> The exploitation of children, and its resulting host of negative health outcomes, should be dealt with as a public health concern.<sup>4</sup>

Consider child sexual abuse in a social context:<sup>5</sup>



*Adapted with permission from Chris Newlin, National Children's Advocacy Center*

*"I am well aware that child sexual abuse and exploitation are huge factors in children's health and in the broader public health. A culture that values its children, invests in its children. It's time to invest in prevention of such abuse." Sharon Cooper, M.D.<sup>11</sup>*

### Research indicates that:

- The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study estimates that 25% of females and 16% of males have experienced sexual abuse as children. The same study indicates that sexual abuse has been associated with significant negative short-term and long-term health impacts for the victims.<sup>12</sup>
- Child sexual abuse impacts health care costs across a lifespan. Healthcare costs are 16% higher for women who experienced child sexual abuse and 36% higher if they experienced both sexual and physical abuse.<sup>13</sup>

## FACTS FOR PREVENTION: The Health Impact on Children & Youth (Page 2)

- Children now spend 45 hours a week with media, 17 hours with their parents, and 30 hours in school. A strong connection has been proven between media exposure and childhood obesity, smoking, and sexual activity.<sup>14</sup>
- Media viewing is a critical risk factor for aggression, linking media viewing and physical behavior.<sup>15</sup>
- Teens exposed to high levels of televised sexual content were twice as likely to experience a pregnancy during the three-year period, compared to teens with lower levels of exposure.<sup>16</sup>
- Childhood sexual abuse can involve a wide number of psychological sequelae, including low self-esteem, anxiety and depression. Numerous studies have noted that child sexual abuse victims are vulnerable to later sexual victimization as well as the link between child sexual abuse and later engagement in high-risk sexual behavior. Survivors of child sexual abuse are more likely to have multiple sex partners, become pregnant as teenagers, and experience sexual assault as adults.<sup>17</sup>
- Data from 67,853 women in a Nurses Health Survey II, analyzed in 2009, examined lifetime abuse reported in 2001 with risk of diabetes from 1989-2005. The results showed child or teen physical abuse reported by 54% and sexual abuse by 34% of participants. Moderate to severe physical and sexual abuse in childhood and adolescence have dose-response associations with risk of type 2 diabetes among adult women. This excess risk is partially explained by higher BMI of women with a history of early abuse.<sup>18</sup>
- Girls exposed to sexualizing and objectifying media are more likely to develop body image dissatisfaction, eating disorders, depression, low self-esteem and possibly lower academic functioning. The American Psychological Association's Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls noted that consequences of sexualization ranged from mental health issues to negative impact to girls' and women's physical health.<sup>19</sup>

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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

**Pat Quinn**  
GOVERNOR

March 28, 2014

Dear Fellow State Leaders,

As elected officials, we are committed to making our states safer for residents by protecting their health, safety and wellbeing. Whether that means proposing legislation to make roads safer, passing laws to combat violence, or recommending regulations to protect public health, we have all taken an oath to serve the people of our state to the best of our abilities, regardless of their age, race, or socioeconomic status.

I am writing today to bring to your attention one such challenge to public health and safety: Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). Known as the "silent epidemic," 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will become a victim of CSA by their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, with 93 percent of these children abused by *someone they know and trust*. Today, there are more than 42 million survivors of CSA in the United States, many of whom are still children. In addition to the human cost, it is estimated that CSA costs our country \$35 billion per year (National Institute of Justice). This is totally unacceptable and as public leaders we must empower our residents, particularly our most vulnerable, to prevent this type of abuse and speak out against abusers.

I believe that through education, we can significantly decrease instances of CSA in all fifty states. On February 14, 2011, I signed Illinois Public Act 96-1524, creating the "Erin's Law Task Force", which sought to examine this epidemic and make recommendations to educate children, school staff, and families on CSA. Their report described best practices for introducing age-appropriate curriculum in Illinois Public Schools, pre-K to grade 5, in order to increase early reporting of CSA and in some cases prevent CSA altogether. Furthermore, I signed Illinois' version of "Erin's Law" on January 24, 2013.

I encourage you to review our report, and consider passing a version of "Erin's Law" in your own state. Working together, we can protect our children and prevent this serious challenge to our public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Quinn".

Pat Quinn  
Governor



January 28, 2014

The Honorable Lance Kinzer, Chairperson  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Statehouse, Room 165-W  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Kinzer:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2432 by House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2432 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2432 would require each school district to adopt and implement a plan to address child sexual abuse for each of its schools offering any of grades kindergarten through six. The plan would be required to include training and education for teachers in order to assist with teacher awareness of child sexual abuse, as well as age-appropriate instruction for students that is related to child sexual abuse.

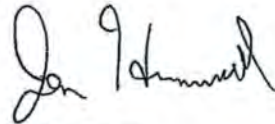
Prior to providing any instruction on sexual abuse, each district would be required to inform parents that they may examine and review the educational materials and decide if the child would be instructed with the materials. If a parent decides that his or her child should not be taught using the materials, the parent would have to inform the school in writing. The State Board of Education would develop materials and guidelines that local boards of education could use in implementing a plan for sexual abuse education.

Estimated State Fiscal Effect				
	FY 2014 SGF	FY 2014 All Funds	FY 2015 SGF	FY 2015 All Funds
Revenue	--	--	--	--
Expenditure	--	--	\$28,600	\$28,600
FTE Pos.	--	--	--	--

The Honorable Lance Kinzer, Chairperson  
January 28, 2014  
Page 2—HB 2432

The Department of Education estimates that enactment of HB 2432 would require additional expenditures totaling \$28,600, all from the State General Fund, or approximately \$100 for each of the state's 286 school districts. The estimate include the cost of engaging outside consultants and agencies in the area of child sexual abuse, as well as making the materials accessible to educators and parents on the Department's website. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2432 is not reflected in *The FY 2015 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Hummell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jon Hummell,  
Interim Director of the Budget

cc: Dale Dennis, Education



Senate Fiscal Agency  
P. O. Box 30036  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

BILL ANALYSIS



Telephone: (517) 373-5383  
Fax: (517) 373-1986

Senate Bills 1112, 1113, and 1114 (as enacted)  
Sponsor: Senator John Proos (S.B. 1112)  
          Senator Rebekah Warren (S.B. 1113)  
          Senator Judy K. Emmons (S.B. 1114)  
Senate Committee: Health Policy  
House Committee: Education

Date Completed: 2-6-13

**CONTENT**

**Senate Bill 1112 amended the Child Protection Law to do the following:**

- Create the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children.
- Require the Task Force to make recommendations for reducing child sexual abuse in Michigan, and for school policies that address the sexual abuse of children.
- Require the Task Force to submit to the Governor and the Legislature a final report containing its recommendations within 365 days.
- Abolish the Task Force when the final report is submitted.

**Senate Bill 1113 amended the Revised School Code to require the board of a school district or intermediate school district or board of directors of a public school academy to adopt and implement a policy addressing sexual abuse of children.**

**Senate Bill 1114 amended the Revised School Code to require a pupil's parent or guardian to be given advance notice of pupil instruction under the policy adopted under Senate Bill 1113, and allow the parent or guardian to have the pupil excused from the instruction.**

Senate Bill 1113 was tie-barred to both of the other bills, which were tie-barred to Senate Bill 1113. All of the bills took effect on January 9, 2013.

**PUBLIC ACTS 593-595 of 2012**

**Senate Bill 1112**

The bill created the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children within the Department of Human Services (DHS). The Governor, in consultation with the Department, must appoint members to the Task Force. The appointment of members must reflect the State's geographic diversity. Task Force members must include the following:

- Individuals who have experience and expertise in the fields of intervention and prevention of child abuse and neglect, education, or child welfare.
- One representative each from the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board, and the Michigan chapter of the National Children's Alliance.
- An administrator or staff member of a child assessment center.
- A licensed therapist trained to counsel or treat child sexual abuse victims.
- A circuit court judge or his or her designee.
- A member of the board of a school district, intermediate school district, or public school academy.

The DHS Director or his or her designee must serve as the Task Force's presiding officer. Task Force members will serve without compensation and may not be reimbursed for their expenses.

The Task Force must make recommendations for reducing child sexual abuse in Michigan, as well as for school policies that address the sexual abuse of children. In making those recommendations, the Task Force must do all of the following:

- Gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout the State.
- Receive reports and testimony from individuals, State and local agencies, community-based organizations, and other public and private organizations.
- Review steps taken and programs established in other states to reduce child sexual abuse.
- Create goals for State policy that are aimed at preventing child sexual abuse.
- Develop a child sexual abuse protocol to be used by all community partners in order to help identify, prevent, and investigate child abuse.

In addition, the Task Force must create recommendations and guidelines for all of the following:

- School policies addressing sexual abuse of children according to Section 1505 of the Revised School Code (enacted by Senate Bill 1113).
- Age-appropriate, evidence-based child sexual abuse awareness.
- School personnel's appropriate response to pupils affected by sexual abuse.
- The provision of educational material to parents and guardians on the warning signs of child sexual abuse and information on assistance and referrals or resources.

The recommendations may include proposals for specific statutory changes and methods to foster cooperation among State agencies and between the State and local government.

Within 365 days after its members are appointed, the Task Force must submit a final report with the recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature.

The Task Force must consult with DHS employees who work on child protection matters, the Department of State Police, the State Board of Education, and any other State agency or department necessary to accomplish the Task Force's responsibilities.

Upon written request from a child or his or her parent or legal guardian, the child must be excused, without penalty, from participating in the Task Force's information-gathering efforts.

Upon submission of the required final report, the Task Force will be abolished.

### **Senate Bill 1113**

The bill allows the board of a school district or intermediate school district (ISD) or the board of directors of a public school academy to adopt and implement a policy addressing sexual abuse of children. If a board chooses to do so, the policy must be substantially consistent with the recommendations and guidelines set by the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children. The policy may address any of the following, but is not limited to these topics:

- Age-appropriate, evidence-based curriculum and instruction for pupils in grades pre-K to five concerning child sexual abuse awareness and prevention.
- Training for school personnel on child sexual abuse, including training on supportive, appropriate response to disclosure of abuse.
- Available counseling and resources for pupils affected by sexual abuse.
- Emotional and educational support for a pupil affected by sexual abuse to allow the pupil to continue to be successful in school.
- The provision of educational information to parents or guardians on the warning signs of a child's being sexually abused and information on needed assistance, referral, or resources.

The educational information may be provided in the student handbook distributed to pupils and parents and guardians.

In addition, the policy may address a review of the system in place in the school district, ISD, or public school academy to educate and support school personnel who are required to report child abuse or neglect under the Child Protection Law, and the process in place for making those mandatory reports. The bill states that this review should include an analysis of the level of compliance with the mandatory reporting

requirements and suggestions to improve compliance.

Any instruction, training, or information provided pursuant to the policy must be substantially consistent with the Task Force's guidelines and recommendations, and may address, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- Methods for increasing teacher, pupil, and parent awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse of children, including knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a child might be a victim of sexual abuse.
- Actions that a child who is a victim of sexual abuse should take to obtain assistance and intervention.
- Available counseling options for pupils affected by sexual abuse.

Pupil instruction under the bill is subject to Section 1505a of the Code (which Senate Bill 1114 added).

#### **Senate Bill 1114**

Under the bill, if a school district, ISD, or public school academy provides instruction to pupils on child sexual abuse pursuant to the policy adopted under Senate Bill 1113, a pupil may not be given the instruction unless his or her parent or guardian is notified in advance of the instruction and its content, given a prior opportunity to review the materials to be used, and notified in advance of his or her right to have the pupil excused from the instruction. Upon the written request of a pupil's parent or legal guardian, the pupil must be excused from the instruction without penalty or loss of academic credit.

MCL 722.632b (S.B. 1112)  
380.1505 (S.B. 1113)  
380.1505a (S.B. 1114)

Legislative Analyst: Julie Cassidy

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

##### **Senate Bill 1112**

Creation of the Task Force will result in marginal costs to the State and possibly to local units of government. Associated costs could include printing, organizing and posting meetings, and distributing a final report.

##### **Senate Bill 1113**

The option for a school board to adopt and implement a policy on sexual abuse likely will result in a cost to school districts that choose to adopt a policy and do not already have such a policy in place. The extent of the cost will depend upon the type and breadth of sexual abuse policy that is adopted and implemented. The cost is therefore inestimable, but will be at the discretion of the district.

##### **Senate Bill 1114**

The requirement for schools to inform parents of upcoming instruction on child sexual abuse likely will cause minimal increases in administrative costs, associated with the costs of notification.

Fiscal Analyst: Frances Carley  
Kathryn Summers

##### **S1112s1112es**

This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

**Consolidated Fiscal Note – 2013-14 Session**

**Bill #:** H1316-0 **Complete Date:** 04/22/13

**Chief Author:** LESCH, JOHN

**Title:** ERIN'S LAW-CHILD SEX ABUSE SCHL PLCY

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
State	X	
Local	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X

**Agencies:** Education Department (04/17/13)  
 Health Dept (04/22/13)  
 Legislature (04/22/13)

Public Safety Dept (04/17/13)  
 Human Services Dept (04/19/13)

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	<b>FY13</b>	<b>FY14</b>	<b>FY15</b>	<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>
<b>Net Expenditures</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Revenues</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Net Cost &lt;Savings&gt;</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Total Cost &lt;Savings&gt; to the State</b>					

	<b>FY13</b>	<b>FY14</b>	<b>FY15</b>	<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>
<b>Full Time Equivalents</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Total FTE</b>					

**Consolidated EBO Comments**

It is unclear which agency will staff the advisory taskforce and coordinate the report due February 15, 2014. No agency assigned to this fiscal note assumed staffing responsibilities. The agency responsible to staff the taskforce will incur administrative expenses through February 16, 2014.

EBO Signature: KRISTY SWANSON  
 Date: 04/22/13 Phone: 651-201-8082

**Fiscal Note – 2013-14 Session**

**Bill #:** H1316-0 **Complete Date:** 04/17/13

**Chief Author:** LESCH, JOHN

**Title:** ERIN'S LAW-CHILD SEX ABUSE SCHL PLCY

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
State		X
Local	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X

**Agency Name:** Education Department

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	<b>FY13</b>	<b>FY14</b>	<b>FY15</b>	<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Less Agency Can Absorb</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Net Expenditures</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Revenues</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Net Cost &lt;Savings&gt;</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Total Cost &lt;Savings&gt; to the State</b>					

	<b>FY13</b>	<b>FY14</b>	<b>FY15</b>	<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>
<b>Full Time Equivalent</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Total FTE</b>					

**Bill Description**

Section 1 of this bill requires school districts to adopt and implement a policy to prevent and address child sexual abuse. The requirements for the policy are listed.

Section 2 creates an advisory task force on preventing child sexual abuse. The membership of the task force includes the commissioner of education or the commissioner's designee. The task force is required to recommend to the commissioner of education and the legislature how schools can help reduce child sexual abuse in Minnesota. A report is due by February 15, 2014 at which time the task force expires.

**Assumptions**

One representative from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will participate in the task force.

MDE will not be in charge of coordinating the task force and the required report.

There is no compensation for task force members.

**Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula**

None

**Long-Term Fiscal Considerations**

Task force expires on February 16, 2014.

**Local Government Costs**

School districts will incur costs creating and implementing policies to prevent and address child sexual abuse.

Agency Contact Name: Dykoski, Karen 651-582-8766  
FN Coord Signature: KAREN DYKOSKI  
Date: 04/17/13 Phone: 651-582-8766

**EBO Comments**

I have reviewed this Fiscal Note for accuracy and content.

EBO Signature: KRISTY SWANSON  
Date: 04/17/13 Phone: 651-201-8082

**Fiscal Note – 2013-14 Session**

**Bill #:** H1316-0 **Complete Date:** 04/19/13

**Chief Author:** LESCH, JOHN

**Title:** ERIN'S LAW-CHILD SEX ABUSE SCHL PLCY

Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
State		X
Local		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X

**Agency Name:** Human Services Dept

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
<b>Expenditures</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Less Agency Can Absorb</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Net Expenditures</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Revenues</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Net Cost &lt;Savings&gt;</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Total Cost &lt;Savings&gt; to the State</b>					

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
<b>Full Time Equivalent</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Total FTE</b>					

**Narrative for HF1316-0**

**Bill Description**

This bill establishes a new law under Minnesota Statutes 2012, chapter 121A that requires school district policies to address child sexual abuse and creates an advisory task force on the prevention of child sexual abuse.

**Assumptions**

Section 2 of the bill creates an advisory task force on preventing child sexual abuse, to include the Commissioners of Education, Health, Human Services and Public Safety. It is assumed that a representative of the Department of Human Services (DHS) would participate in the task force that would make recommendations on how schools can help reduce child sexual abuse in Minnesota and that DHS would not have the lead in convening the advisory task force. Participation would fall under the current scope of work of the department, therefore there are no fiscal impacts to DHS.

**Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula**

<b>Fiscal Summary (000's)</b>						
<b>Fund</b>	<b>BACT</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>FY2014</b>	<b>FY2015</b>	<b>FY2016</b>	<b>FY2017</b>
		Total Net Fiscal Impact	0	0	0	0
		FTE				

**Long-Term Fiscal Considerations**

**Local Government Costs**

**References/Sources**

Christeen Borsheim, Director Child Safety & Permanency  
Children & Family Services  
Minnesota Department of Human Services  
(651) 431-3857

Agency Contact Name: Jenny Ehrnst 651-431-3831  
FN Coord Signature: JAYNE RANKIN  
Date: 04/19/13 Phone: 651-431-3432

**EBO Comments**

I have reviewed this Fiscal Note for accuracy and content.

EBO Signature: SUSAN MELCHIONNE  
Date: 04/19/13 Phone: 651-201-8035

**Fiscal Note – 2013-14 Session**

**Bill #:** H1316-0 **Complete Date:** 04/22/13

**Chief Author:** LESCH, JOHN

**Title:** ERIN'S LAW-CHILD SEX ABUSE SCHL PLCY

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
State		X
Local		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X

**Agency Name:** Health Dept

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	<b>FY13</b>	<b>FY14</b>	<b>FY15</b>	<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Less Agency Can Absorb</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Net Expenditures</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Revenues</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Net Cost &lt;Savings&gt;</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Total Cost &lt;Savings&gt; to the State</b>					

	<b>FY13</b>	<b>FY14</b>	<b>FY15</b>	<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>
<b>Full Time Equivalents</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Total FTE</b>					

### **Bill Description**

This bill requires school districts to adopt and implement a policy to prevent and address child sexual abuse and establishes an advisory task force on preventing child sexual abuse to recommend to the legislature how to reduce child sexual abuse throughout Minnesota.

Section 2, item (5), indicates that the commissioner of health or the commissioner's designee will be included as a member of the advisory task force.

### **Assumptions**

It is assumed that an existing staff person from the Health Department's Injury and Violence Prevention Unit will be designated by the commissioner to serve on the advisory task force on preventing child sexual abuse. Serving on the task force will be considered part of that staff person's duties. Therefore, this legislation will not have a fiscal impact on MDH.

### **Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula**

No fiscal impact.

### **Long-Term Fiscal Considerations**

None

### **Local Government Impact**

None

### **References/Sources**

Child sexual abuse is within the current scope of the Injury and Violence Prevention Unit.

FN Coord Signature: DAVE GREEMAN  
Date: 04/22/13 Phone: 651-201-5235

### **EBO Comments**

I have reviewed this Fiscal Note for accuracy and content.

EBO Signature: SUSAN MELCHIONNE  
Date: 04/22/13 Phone: 651-201-8035

**Fiscal Note – 2013-14 Session**

**Bill #:** H1316-0 **Complete Date:** 04/22/13

**Chief Author:** LESCH, JOHN

**Title:** ERIN'S LAW-CHILD SEX ABUSE SCHL PLCY

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
State		X
Local		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X

**Agency Name:** Legislature

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	<b>FY13</b>	<b>FY14</b>	<b>FY15</b>	<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Less Agency Can Absorb</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Net Expenditures</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Revenues</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Net Cost &lt;Savings&gt;</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Total Cost &lt;Savings&gt; to the State</b>					
	<b>FY13</b>	<b>FY14</b>	<b>FY15</b>	<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>
<b>Full Time Equivalent</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Total FTE</b>					

**Bill Description**

HF 1316 creates the Advisory Task Force on Preventing Child Sexual Abuse. The 14 member task force will be composed of two representatives, two senators, four state employees and six public members. The Department of Education, Health and Human Services, and Public Safety will provide staff assistance to the task force. The task force will submit a report of its recommendations to the Department of Education and the Legislature by February 15, 2014.

Task force members will serve without compensation and shall not be reimbursed for their expenses. The task force expires on February 16, 2014.

**Assumptions**

This bill has no fiscal impact on the Legislature since the legislative members of the task force must serve without compensation or reimbursement of expense.

**Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula**

N/A

**Long-Term Fiscal Considerations**

N/A

**Local Government Costs**

N/A

**References/Sources**

Greg Hubinger, Legislative Coordinating Commission

FN Coord Signature: DIANE HENRY-WANGENSTEEN  
Date: 04/19/13 Phone: 651-296-1121

**EBO Comments**

I have reviewed this Fiscal Note for accuracy and content.

EBO Signature: MICAH INTERMILL  
Date: 04/22/13 Phone: 651-201-8044

**Fiscal Note – 2013-14 Session**

**Bill #:** H1316-0 **Complete Date:** 04/17/13

**Chief Author:** LESCH, JOHN

**Title:** ERIN'S LAW-CHILD SEX ABUSE SCHL PLCY

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
State	X	
Local		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X

**Agency Name:** Public Safety Dept

This table reflects fiscal impact to state government. Local government impact is reflected in the narrative only.

Dollars (in thousands)	<b>FY13</b>	<b>FY14</b>	<b>FY15</b>	<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Less Agency Can Absorb</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Net Expenditures</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Revenues</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Net Cost &lt;Savings&gt;</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Total Cost &lt;Savings&gt; to the State</b>					

	<b>FY13</b>	<b>FY14</b>	<b>FY15</b>	<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>
<b>Full Time Equivalents</b>					
-- No Impact --					
<b>Total FTE</b>					

**Bill Description**

House File 1316 mandates that school districts adopt and implement policies to prevent and address child sexual abuse including eight specific requirements listed in the bill. In addition, the bill creates an advisory task force that would include the Commissioner of Public Safety or his/her designee.

**Assumptions**

The Department of Public Safety/Office of Justice Program (OJP) would supply the Commissioner's designee.

**Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula**

Staff time and travel would be required to attend task force meetings. These costs would be absorbed using existing state funds.

Agency Contact Name: Jeri Boisvert 651-201-7305

FN Coord Signature: LARRY FREUND

Date: 04/11/13 Phone: 651-201-7050

**EBO Comments**

I have reviewed this Fiscal Note for accuracy and content.

EBO Signature: KEITH BOGUT

Date: 04/17/13 Phone: 651-201-8034

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**May 30, 2009**

**TO:** Honorable David Dewhurst , Lieutenant Governor, Senate  
Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

**FROM:** John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB1041** by Parker (relating to school district policies addressing sexual abuse of children and establishment of a state strategy to reduce child abuse and neglect and improve child welfare. ), **Conference Committee Report**

<b>No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</b>
---

The bill would create a 9-member task force to establish a strategy for reducing child abuse and neglect and improving child welfare. The provisions relating to the task force would take effect on September 1, 2009 and would expire on September 1, 2011. It is assumed that any costs associated with the bill would be minimal and could be absorbed within available resources.

**Local Government Impact**

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Costs for school districts, in implementing the bill's requirement to develop and implement a policy addressing sexual abuse of children, are not expected to be significant.

**Source Agencies:** 530 Family and Protective Services, Department of, 537 State Health Services,  
Department of, 696 Department of Criminal Justice

**LBB Staff:** JOB, JSp, CL, NM, MB



Approved: 05/17/12 *MAC*

# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1705

LR 2353(05)

**Resolve, To Create the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children**

**Fiscal Note for Bill as Engrossed with:**

**C "A" (H-796)**

**S "A" (S-571)**

**Committee: Health and Human Services**

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## Fiscal Note

Legislative Cost/Study

### Legislative Cost/Study

The general operating expenses of this task force are projected to be \$2,430 in fiscal year 2012-13, assuming 4 task force meetings. The Legislature's budget includes \$10,000 for studies to be conducted during the interim after the 2nd Regular Session. The Legislative Council has authorized funding for this task force from that budget.

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

Additional costs to the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services associated with department representatives serving on the task force can be absorbed within the departments' existing budgeted resources.

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 0248-02  
Bill No.: Truly Agreed To and Finally Passed SCS for SB 54  
Subject: Education, Elementary and Secondary; Teachers; Elementary and Secondary Education Department; Children and Minors; Highway Patrol; Social Services Department  
Type: Original  
Date: June 1, 2011

Bill Summary: This bill creates the Amy Hestir Student Protection Act and Erin's Law.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
General Revenue	(\$105,750)	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund</b>	<b>(\$105,750)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Numbers within parentheses: ( ) indicate costs or losses.  
 This fiscal note contains 11 pages.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>
Federal Funds	(\$105,750)	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>(\$105,750)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Estimated Total Net Effect on All funds expected to exceed \$100,000 savings or (cost).

Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund expected to exceed \$100,000 (cost).

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

The following agencies indicated this bill would have no fiscal impact on their respective agencies: **Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Department of Public Safety - Missouri State Highway Patrol, Office of State Public Defender, Office of State Auditor, Office of Prosecution Services, Office of Administration - Office of Child Advocate.**

Officials from the **Department of Public Safety - Office of the Director** assume any costs associated with this bill may be absorbed with existing resources.

Officials from the **Department of Health and Senior Services** state this bill will have no fiscal impact on their agency.

Officials from the **Department of Social Services - Division of Youth Services and Children's Division** state this bill will have no fiscal impact on these respective divisions.

According to officials from the **Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR)**, this bill should not create any additional fiscal impact above current appropriations to JCAR.

Officials from the **Office of State Courts Administrator** state this bill will have no fiscal impact on the Courts.

Officials from the **Department of Mental Health** state this bill would not appear to add any requirement or responsibility to the their agency that would result in a fiscal impact.

According to officials from the **Office of Secretary of State (SOS)**, many bills considered by the General Assembly include provisions allowing or requiring agencies to submit rules and regulations to implement the proposal. The SOS is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of normal activity resulting from each year's legislative session. The fiscal impact for this fiscal note to the SOS for Administrative Rules is less than \$2,500.

**Oversight** assumes the SOS could absorb the costs of printing and distributing regulations related to this proposal. If multiple bills pass which require the printing and distribution of regulations at substantial costs, the SOS could request funding through the appropriation process. Any decisions to raise fees to defray costs would likely be made in subsequent fiscal years.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Officials from the **Department of Corrections (DOC)** state that, currently, the DOC cannot predict the number of new commitments which may result from the creation of the offense(s) outlined in this proposal. An increase in commitments depends on the utilization by prosecutors and the actual sentences imposed by the court.

If additional persons are sentenced to the custody of the DOC due to the provisions of this legislation, the DOC will incur a corresponding increase in operational cost through supervision provided by the Board of Probation and Parole (FY10 average of \$3.92 per offender, per day or an annual cost of \$1,431 per offender).

In summary, supervision by the DOC through probation would result in some additional costs, but it is assumed the impact would be \$0 or a minimal amount that could be absorbed within existing resources.

Officials from the **Office of the Attorney General (AGO)** identify two provisions in this bill that may result in additional costs to AGO:

§162.068.3 requires that, if a school employee provides certain information regarding personnel information of a fellow employee (presumably to a potential employer), the AGO would represent the employee providing the information in the event that employee is sued for providing it. Because AGO cannot project the number of cases that could be generated from this provision, AGO assumes that costs would be unknown but under \$100,000 per year, but if there is a significant increase in claims over time, the AGO may seek appropriations to adequately enforce the proposal.

**Oversight** assumes the that cases that might be generated due to this bill are speculative and for fiscal note purposes only, will assign no fiscal impact.

§168.071 provides some additional crimes which, if committed by a licensed teacher, would subject the teacher to automatic license revocation. Because the AGO handles these revocation cases before DESE, AGO assumes that this amended section could generate additional cases in the event a licensee commits one of the newly enumerated crimes. AGO assumes that any costs associated with this provision could be absorbed within existing resources, but if there is a significant increase in claims over time, the AGO may seek appropriation to adequately enforce the proposal.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

§168.133

Officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)** state that OA-ITSD has determined that automation will be required to share data between DESE, Department of Health and Senior Services, Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, and Department of Mental Health. Additional work by the licensure staff would be required as well.

Currently the certificated and non-certificated school employees are not always kept in the same data storage area. In order to make this process the most efficient, that would need to change. Because of outdated and unsupported software, a new system is currently in process of being developed. That system is estimated at \$1.5 million and is being funded primarily through a federal grant. This system also would accomplish the goal of verifying all employees are on the Family Care Safety Registry and Access Line (FCSR) system, once that system is fully automated. This system also would accomplish the goal of verifying the appropriateness of Social Security Numbers and gather information from national clearing houses for infractions in other states.

The annual cost of verifying that all school employees are registered in the FCSR will be approximately \$1,200,000 (\$10 per person for 120,000 certified teachers). In order to accomplish these requirements, DESE will require 1.5 FTE administrative assistant.

DESE further notes that according to officials with the Missouri Highway Patrol, a "RAP-BACK" system is currently being constructed which will automatically perform checks on all persons currently registered in the FCSR; therefore, once this system is implemented, the annual cost to DESE will no longer exist.

**Oversight** assumes this system will be in place during FY 11, so **Oversight** will be showing no cost to DESE.

§168.133.4 states that the Missouri State Highway Patrol(MSHP) will provide ongoing electronic updates to criminal history background checks. MSHP is currently in the process of establishing a Rapback system that would provide electronic updates to criminal history background checks. It is estimated that the program will be implemented in 2011. Until the MSHP RapBack system is implemented, the annual criminal background check and sex offender registry check will be included as part of the Family Care Safety Registry. Therefore, the MSHP anticipates no fiscal impact.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

**Oversight** notes that in response to a similar proposal from last session (SCS/SB 631 FN 3358-06) the certificated and non-certificated school employees are not always kept in the same data storage area. Because of outdated and unsupported software, a new system would need to be developed to accomplish the goal of verifying all employees are on the Family Care Safety Registry and Access Line (FCSR) system. That system is estimated at \$1.5 million. This system also would accomplish the goal of verifying the appropriateness of Social Security Numbers and gather information from national clearing houses for infractions in other states. **Oversight** notes that apparently a federal government grant has been obtained to develop the new system.

§210.152.3

According to officials from the **Department of Social Services (DOS)**, §210.152.3 is the only section that has a fiscal impact on DOS business systems. The Family and Children Electronic System (FACES) would require modifications to allow a concluded investigation to be re-opened for review and/or investigation in certain instances up to one year after the children's division rendered a decision. This requirement impacts the Investigation and Assessment and the Case Management components of FACES.

Passage of this proposal would require modifications to FACES allow the re-opening of formerly concluded and closed investigations, including those where the call has been expunged. Effort includes:

- Business requirements definition
- Updates to high level design documents
- Updates to technical specification documents
- Coding and unit testing
- System testing
- Regression testing

Two enhancements would be needed in the Family and Children Electronic System:

1. Modifications required to reopen cases in FACES that have not been expunged:
  - Modify the Appeal and Conclusion to "ReOpen" a closed case. This will invalidate the previous conclusion.
    - o Appeal - 80 hrs
    - o Conclusion - 160 hours
    - o Documentation & Testing -180 hours

LMD:LR:OD (12/02)

ASSUMPTION (continued)

2. Modifications required to re-open cases in FACES where the call has been expunged requires creation of an Expunged Record Retrieval Screen to select the records to be retrieved. Create a batch program to search FACES expunged tapes and restore records into FACES.
  - o Expunged Record Retrieval Screen - 800 hrs
  - o FACES Expunged record search batch program - 800 hrs
  - o FACES Expunged Record Restore program -- 800 hrs

Contractor rate for systems work on FACES averages \$75.00 per hour.

Total Cost = 2,820 hours X \$75.00/hr = \$211,500.00

Assumptions:

Modify the Appeal and Conclusion to "ReOpen" a closed case. This will invalidate the previous conclusion.

Currently, records to be expunged from FACES are written to an expunge table. CD has 30 days to retrieve the records before they are expunged and the "Original Call documents" are shredded.

To retrieve Records expunged from FACES

- o Create a Screen to select the records to be retrieved. Use Call ticket #, DCN, name, etc.
- o Batch program to search FACES expunged tapes and restore records.
- o Records are restored into the FACES database as they were.
- o Call is "ReOpened"

Fund sources for FACES are 50% GR and 50% Federal.

Cost from General Revenue Funds	\$105,750
Cost from Federal Funds	<u>\$105,750</u>

Total Cost      **\$211,500**

ITSD would be required to complete all system changes in FY12 and do not anticipate additional costs beyond FY12.

LMD:LR:OD (12/02)

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Officials from the **Jefferson City Police Department, Springfield Police Department, and the Columbia Sheriff's Department** state this proposal does not create a fiscal impact on their respective departments.

Officials from the **Parkway School District** and the **St Louis Public School District** stated this proposal would have no fiscal impact on their respective districts.

Officials from the **Special School District of St Louis County (SSD)** state the only question regarding fiscal impact would be the cost of mediation which is not expected to be material as SSD only has seven schools.

Officials from the **Independence School District** estimated an annual cost of \$50,000, but did not elaborate on what that cost would cover.

DESE assumes there might be some increased time by school employees to meet the provisions of this proposal. **Oversight** assumes, based on responses from school districts, that costs would be minimal and could be absorbed with existing resources. The criminal background check and fingerprint collections permitted in §168.133.9 are at the school districts' expense but are permissive so no cost is assigned.

§160.2100 & 160.2110 - Erin's Law

Officials from the **Department of Corrections, Department of Social Services, Department of Health and Senior Services, Office of Attorney General, Department of Public Safety-Missouri State Highway Patrol, and the Missouri House of Representatives** state this portion of the bill will have no fiscal impact on their respective agencies.

Officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education** state their agency could incur expenses related to the duties of the task force; however, those expenses are not expected to be significant.

Officials from the **Missouri Senate** state this bill either has no fiscal impact as it relates to their agency, or minimal costs which can be absorbed by present appropriations.

Officials from the **Office of the Governor** state there should be no added cost to the Governor's Office as a result of this bill. If additional duties are placed on the office related to appointments resulting from other legislation, there may be the need for additional staff resources in the future.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2012 (10 Mo.)	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>GENERAL REVENUE</b>			
<u>Cost - Department of Social Services - Programming expenses (§210.152.3)</u>	<u>(\$105,750)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b>ESTIMATE NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE</b>	<b><u>(\$105,750)</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>
<b>FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<u>Cost - Department of Social Services - Programming expenses (§210.152.3)</u>	<u>(\$105,750)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE</b>	<b><u>(\$105,750)</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>
<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2012 (10 Mo.)	FY 2013	FY 2014
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business</u>			

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this bill.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

§210.152

The Department of Social Services - Children's Division may reopen a case for review at the request of any party to the investigation if information is obtained that the investigation was not properly conducted under the provisions of Chapter 210, RSMo, or if new information becomes available. For any case previously investigated by the Children's Division for which there was a finding of "unsubstantiated", the Children's Division must reconduct its investigation one time at the request of the Office of the Child Advocate if the Child Advocate has reasonable suspicion of wrongdoing. The Children's Division must not reopen an investigation if a court of law has entered a final judgment on the matter.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

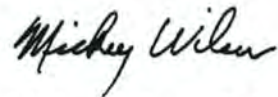
SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Social Services  
    Children's Division  
    Division of Youth Services  
Department of Health and Senior Services  
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations  
Department of Public Safety  
    Missouri State Highway Patrol  
    Office of the Director  
Joint Committee on Administrative Rules  
Office of Secretary of State  
    Administrative Rules Division  
Office of State Courts Administrator  
Office of Administration  
    Office of Child Advocate  
Department of Corrections  
Office of the Governor  
Missouri House of Representatives  
Missouri Senate  
Office of Prosecution Services  
Office of State Auditor  
Office of State Public Defender

LMD:LR:OD (12/02)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Continued)

Office of Corrections  
Department of Mental Health  
Office of Attorney General  
Local Law Enforcement  
    Springfield Police Department  
    Jefferson City Police Department  
    Boone County Sheriff's Department  
School Districts  
    Parkway  
    St Louis Public School District  
    Independence  
    Special School District of St Louis County



Mickey Wilson, CPA  
Director  
June 1, 2011

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-0696  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6088**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 267**

**NOTE PREPARED: Mar 11, 2012**

**BILL AMENDED: Feb 23, 2012**

**SUBJECT:** Education Concerning Child Abuse.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Rogers

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Rep. Behning

**BILL STATUS:** Enrolled

**FUNDS AFFECTED:  GENERAL  
 DEDICATED  
 FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill requires the Department of Education(DOE), in collaboration with the Department of Child Services and organizations that have expertise in child abuse, including child sexual abuse, to identify or develop model education materials, response policies, and reporting procedures on child abuse, including child sexual abuse, for use by schools for Grade 2 through Grade 5.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2012.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The education materials and procedures referred to above have to be made available to schools no later than July 1, 2013. The education materials may include topics such as warning signs of child abuse (including sexual abuse), basic principles of child abuse (including sexual abuse), prevention, and methods of student, teacher, and parental education and outreach.

The model child abuse and child sexual abuse response and reporting policies may include defining how a victim of abuse may seek assistance, how staff personnel may intervene when they suspect or recognize that a student is a victim of abuse, identifying the counseling options and the educational support available to assist a victim of abuse, and outlining how to report such incidents.

Education materials would probably be obtained from local and national organizations. However, the Department would have to organize and distribute the materials to schools. The DOE would have to carry out these provisions within its existing level of resources.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** Under the guidance of DOE, schools would have to implement child abuse and child sexual abuse education programs, response, and reporting procedures in Grade 2 through Grade 5. School health education curriculums may have to be modified to include instruction on child abuse, but this can be carried out within the existing level of school resources.

The immediate impact would be the cost of training materials for students and staff. Training for staff could be accomplished during teacher in-service days.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Education.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Schools.

**Information Sources:** American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry website:  
<http://www.aacap.org/>

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chuck Mayfield, 317-232-4825.



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

# FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 449

PRINTERS NO. 2248

PRIME SPONSOR: Vance

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2011/12	FY 2012/13
General Fund	\$0	\$0

**SUMMARY:** Senate Bill 449 amends the Public School Code concerning child abuse recognition and reporting. It would take effect in 180 days.

**ANALYSIS:** This legislation requires school entities and independent contractors of school entities to provide employees who have direct contact with children with mandatory training on child abuse recognition and reporting. The training must address certain topics enumerated in the bill.

School entities and independent contractors may provide the training through the internet or other distance communications systems. Employees must complete a minimum of three hours of training every five years and employees required to undergo continuing professional education will receive credit toward these requirements if the training program has been approved by the Department of Education in consultation with the Department of Public Welfare.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Enactment of the legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds.

**PREPARED BY:** Jeff Miller  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** June 18, 2012

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*



2013 NY A 661: Sponsor Memo - 01/08/2013

SPONSORS MEMO:

## NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

### MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION

**submitted in accordance with Assembly Rule III, Sec 1(e)**

RETRIEVE BILL

BILL NUMBER: A661

SPONSOR: Dinowitz(MS)

TITLE OF BILL: An act to amend the education law, in relation to enacting **"Erin Merryn's law"**

PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL; Enacts "Erin Merryn's Law" to require provision of instruction to prevent child sexual exploitation and abuse in grades kindergarten through eight.

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS: Section 1. Short title "Erin Merryn's law"

Section 2. Legislative findings and intent

Section 3. Amends section 803-a of the education law, as added by chapter 658 of the laws of 1994 to add prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation to instruction students already receive in the prevention of child abduction. The duties of the local boards of education to select curricula and the commissioner to provide technical assistance are unchanged.

Section 4. Effective date.

EXISTING LAW: Section 803-a of the education law currently requires all public school students in grades K-8 to receive instruction designed to prevent child abduction. The law does not mandate how much time must be allocated to the subject, or how frequently the instruction must be given. It must, however, be given under the direct supervision of a regular classroom teacher, even if outside speakers are used. This requirement ensures the quality of the instruction and that the time spent on these important lessons counts toward required classroom time.

JUSTIFICATION: Awareness of the epidemic of child sexual abuse has come a long way since section 803-a was enacted in 1994 and quality school safety programs are already evolving to teach children that abduction by strangers is not the only, or the most common, danger they face. Like other sex crimes, most child sexual abuse is committed by people who know their victims. Trusted acquaintances are most often the perpetrators, followed by family members and then strangers. Updating the language of New York's education requirement to reflect the current understanding of both the sources and warning signs of child predation will help ensure that more children receive practical and age-appropriate instruction that they can incorporate into their daily lives.

As more and more abuse victims of all ages are coming forward to share stories of horrifying abuses, we are regularly reminded of our sacred obligation to prepare the next generation children to meet life's major challenges. Despite greater openness about these crimes, feelings of shame or stigma still keep many victims and witnesses silent. Many young people suffering abuse or exploitation are still unaware of when and from whom to seek help. Concerned parents may not even know about the latest techniques being used by predators to meet and groom their victims through electronic communications, the internet and social media.

Expanding the required instruction under 803-a to encompass child sex abuse and exploitation prevention will require the state education department to make revisions to its technical advisories but it need not require districts to devote any additional time or staffing resources to student safety instruction. With our growing understanding of the many dangers facing our children and the lifelong injuries sexual abuse and exploitation can inflict, the cost of not providing this vital safety information is simply too high.

PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY; .UP OFF; 2011-12 - A.8993 - HELD FOR CONSIDERATION IN EDUCATION/S.6182 - PASSED SENATE

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: Minimal. The state education department will continue to provide technical assistance to school districts in their development of age-appropriate curricula.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act shall take effect immediately, provided, however, that the amendments to subdivision 1 of section 8-3-a of the education law, made by section 3 of this act, shall take effect July 1, 2014.





# The RESOURCE

Newsletter of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center

Fall/Winter 2005

## Recollections of a Hurricane

### LaFASA Director Recounts Katrina's Devastation

By  
Judy Benitez

*In the following piece, the Executive Director of the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault (LaFASA) presents a revealing and moving glimpse into the devastation that touched so many lives in the Gulf Coast region as a result of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. With journal-type entries, Judy Benitez tells us about the impact this disaster had on her life and her family and friends, and about her deep concerns, as a coalition director, regarding the sexual victimization of residents and evacuees and for the programs in storm-ravaged areas.*

**Saturday, Aug. 27**, Dad's birthday: My friend and co-worker Misty and her new husband, Doug, planned their wedding reception for tonight at her parents' house in Mandeville, since so many people couldn't get to the wedding earlier in month. I took my kids along, and Martha from the office went too. But our co-worker, Vita, stayed home, expecting her parents to arrive soon, since they were evacuating from their home on the west bank of the Mississippi.

The party was fun, but much of the conversation focused on the coming storm. Most people had the attitude, "We live far enough away from the coast. We stayed through Andrew; we'll stay through this." Remembering how miserable it was after Andrew - five days without electricity and air-conditioning in south Louisiana in August had tempers flaring and putrid meat rotting in the freezer - I found little comfort in that thought. But I did not plan on leaving either.



*Boat rests on roof of Louisiana home after Hurricane Katrina, August 2005*

It took us almost three hours to make the 45 minute trip home. We avoided the interstate, knowing it would be jammed and slow-moving; the two-lane state highway we took was not much better. Several times the kids and I talked about how glad we were that we don't live in New Orleans.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Consent and the Court of Public Opinion

By  
Anne Munch, JD and Patti Powers, JD

The surge of media attention surrounding high profile sexual assault cases in the last few years has brought the question of what the crime of sexual assault really means to the forefront of our minds and into our conversations. Attitudes and opinions held by the public have fueled a lively

debate on this topic. These ideas and beliefs held by the public reflect what the court of public opinion believes about this crime. Many of the jurors who ultimately decide these cases in a courtroom spend time debating the issue in the court of public opinion first.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## NSVRC

### Inside The Resource

- 3 CSA in Bearing Straits
- 8 Coalition Spotlight
- 11 Focus on Prevention
- 15 SAAM and Poetry Slam
- 15 Relief Fund

The following article by an Inupiat woman from a very remote region of Alaska offers a rare and important view of Child Sexual Assault (CSA). More than a survivor story, this remarkable piece represents her attempt to understand CSA as a social problem, and her effort to help others. It is especially remarkable because there are virtually no sexual assault services in this region. She approaches the personally painful subject with insight and an obvious need to learn more and to share information; she encourages openness and therapy for others. Throughout, her voice resonates with a simple reality that goes beyond the value of any statistics.

Although Alaska has the highest rate of sexual assault of all states, we have relatively few first-hand accounts of its prevalence or impact; clearly this primary source document is a rare, unique resource.

## Child Sexual Abuse in the Bering Straits Region

By  
Karlene Sagoonik

I am a survivor of child sexual abuse and much of my life has been plagued with emotional, spiritual, and physical consequences of the abuse, and this is part of my reason for writing on the subject. I live in a small town (population: approx. 240) in the Bering Straits region of Alaska, and I know that there are others that have suffered in many of the same ways that I have. So I decided to write this paper and interview some people of different generations in my area to help me understand how they deal with child sexual assault (CSA).

Unlike most of the people I interviewed for this paper, I have received counseling and have gone through different types of therapy at different intervals in my lifetime. As a result, I am able to talk about my experiences more openly. However, I have problems that may never go away, even though counseling has helped me understand and deal with the issue. In writing this paper, I suffered memories, which made me physically ill, angry, frustrated, very lonely, and my mental and physical self acted as though the assault had just happened, even though it was a long time ago.

In spite of these things, I feel that I need to reach out to people who are weary of keeping their secrets. I need to let them know that this kind of abuse happened to many others and it is okay to go to people who are willing and able to help. It is important for people to recover from CSA and therapy is a very important part of the healing process. I recommend that anyone who is a victim of CSA and who has not received help, get help through some type of counseling.

It is difficult to determine how prevalent child sexual abuse is in the Bering Straits Region because statistics are inadequate and present a different viewpoint than the one you find when talking with actual victims and

others in a community in the Bering Straits. I want to show the reader different viewpoints from statistics; discuss some actual victims of child sexual abuse; and consider what can aid in their restoration.

Reports of how prevalent people think child sexual abuse is in the Bering Straits Region differ. According to a census of the population of the Bering Straits Region, 40% of 9,176 people are between the ages of 0-19 (3,670), and statistics from Kawerak's Child Advocacy Center in Nome say 51 cases of child sexual abuse were reported in the region for the entire year of 2003. That means that approximately one child per 180 (of total population of region) or one in 72 (of youth population in the region) was sexually victimized. But these reported cases are far fewer than the incidents I heard about when I asked people from my region.

(Continued on page 10)



## Child Sexual Abuse in the Bering Straits Region

(Continued from page 3)

Two researchers, Burgess and Holmstrom, tell us what signs to look for in a victim of sexual abuse and what should be done to aid the healing process.\* They say that the healing process depends on how sexual abuse is approached and defined in our immediate environments and communities. So I looked to my environment and communities here in the Bering Straits Region.

As I interviewed people from my area and I found that attitudes towards CSA have changed over time. \*\* It seemed that people in different age groups hold different ideas about CSA. To show how these attitudes have changed, I interviewed people from different generations. I talked with some people who were at least thirty or over in a small town and a neighboring village in the Bering Straits Region. Nearly all the women and one in three of the men I interviewed had been sexually abused before they reached adolescence.

A man, in his thirties, said to me, "My cousin and I were little kids and we started playing this game of 'let me see your thing, and I'll show you mine.'" He said it turned into having sex with each other. He said he was too little to know how to do it, but his cousin no older than him knew how and he felt it was CSA. He also said that all his buddies were sexually abused and that one of them committed suicide.

A woman I have known my entire life has told me more than once that she was sexually abused by her brothers, cousins, and an uncle. She has not gotten any kind of help. Instead she just keeps doing drugs and drinking. To this day, I don't think her parents know about the abuse.

I also know of another older woman from the same family who used to babysit people's kids. She was sexually abused by one of her brothers. Years later, she beat him up when they were both in a drunken stupor, and there are stories that she sexually abused some young men when they were adolescent boys. People who are abused sometimes wind up being abusers themselves. I know that she has never gotten any kind of help either. She just keeps drinking and doing drugs.

As I talked with more and more people, I became more and more aware that the statistics of sexual abuse of children do not reflect all the occurrences. According to three different people in their forties they either knew of someone who was sexually abused who did not report it or receive any kind of

help, or they were victims of sexual abuse themselves. One woman from a neighboring town said she knows her cousin was sexually abused as a child, and she has grown into a bitter, miserable person who seems to have no sort of relief in sight from the experience. This woman said, "[CSA] affects people all their life and talking with a friend or a professional would help."

Someone in her forties told me some time ago that she was sexually abused over and over during her adolescent years, but she never tried to get any kind of help. Instead, she has taken to drinking alcohol for years. Another woman in her forties was also abused when she was a child and now she abuses crack cocaine, alcohol and other drugs. Someone once said she traded one of her daughters for sex so she could get a piece of crack cocaine. Her daughters are doing drugs, drinking, and each one has had at least one baby before she turned 18. It was her sister who told me that she had confided in her. Some of these instances were hearsay or confidential conversations, but they do indicate how many people there have had some sort of damaging sexual experience before they reached adulthood.

As I interviewed the older generations, the subject of CSA was either unknown or they had been forbidden to speak of it back when they were young. I asked a man in his fifties if sexual abuse was a problem when he was a kid. He said he did not know if there were problems with sexual abuse, but that he did not start hearing about sexual abuse until he was in his twenties. A woman in the same age group said either there was no problem or that it was never talked about. When I asked her to clarify herself, she said there could have been a problem in the community, but she did not know because it was never talked about.

*As I talked with more and more people, I became more and more aware that the statistics of sexual abuse of children do not reflect all the occurrences.*

The silence on the subject of CSA may be a result of cultural admonition on the older generations not to discuss sexual abuse.

When talking with a sixty year old woman, she said she was molested when she was 12 years old and tried to tell her aunt, but her aunt told her, "Don't talk like that." After that, she said it was years before she told anyone, because she got the idea that people did not talk about stuff like that.

(Continued on page 12)

## Child Sexual Abuse in the Bering Straits Region

(Continued from page 10)

Some time ago, I spoke with a woman who is now in her seventies, and the closest she came to admitting that she was a victim of sexual abuse was that she said to me, she knew how I felt. According to her, people used to get drunk a long time ago and things happened that they could not talk about. It would appear that a lot of things people could not talk about were associated to abuse.

Reported or not, child sexual abuse is a problem that needs to be addressed and dealt with in a positive way. One of the first steps in a community is just to get more information about CSA and to treat it as a severe injury, with symptoms and consequences, and methods of treatment, and not as a subject for shame.

Burgess and Holmstrom point out some signs to look for in child sexual abuse victims, and they describe two phases: the acute (immediate) phase and the reorganizational phase. \*

### Acute Phase

"The acute phase [can] last from a few days to several weeks. [It's when a] victim's life has been ... disrupted, and going through disorientation and shock".\* Victims go through physical and emotional symptoms common to someone who has experienced a terrible tragedy. Physical reactions may include muscle soreness and bruises, feeling tired and problems with sleeping, eating too much or not enough, and feeling jumpy. As a CSA victim, I have gone through most of the physical reactions and many of the emotional reactions as well.

Emotional reactions in this phase can be of two different kinds, expressed and controlled. The expressed reactions are visible and include laughing or crying, making jokes or becoming stiff or shaking. The controlled reactions are invisible to others. The victim appears not to feel anything but is actually depressed, angry, feeling shameful, or having thoughts of revenge. I remember feeling disgust, shame, or guilt while appearing calm. Other victims have mentioned masking feelings too: two of the women I spoke with, the one who was abused by her brothers and uncle, and the forty something woman who

said she was abused repeatedly as an adolescent mentioned that they felt this way. Victims may also alternate between expressed and controlled responses, and these responses may surprise or catch the victim off guard. Emotions may go from one extreme to another.

### Reorganizational Phase

In the reorganizational phase, the victim comes to terms with the sexual abuse experience. This phase can last from "a couple of months to years." \* How long this phase lasts depends on how old the person is, their character, and the kind of help the person receives.

During this phase, the victim makes adjustments in his or her life, moves to a new location or changes their phone number, makes new friends, changes schools or jobs, fears being alone, or fears things associated with the place

or circumstances of the sexual assault. After that, victims reorganize and prioritize their lives, making choices, which Burgess and Holmstrom say is healthy. According to them, "sexual assault is the ultimate loss of personal control." Knowing that a CSA problem exists and what victim suffers from are two steps toward acquiring help for the CSA victim.

Knowing how the healing process for victims of CSA begins is also helpful towards restoration. I interviewed a child sexual abuse counselor and she said, "There are different kinds of therapy." They include, play therapy, art therapy, narrative therapy and group therapy.

The Bering Straits region does not lend itself to group therapy because a few of the Village Based Counselors (VBC) (these are counselors usually associated with clinics

in a given village) have not had enough training yet to get one started. In the Nome area, no clinicians are available to get one started because they are travelling around the region and area and are short-staffed. One thing I brought up with the

*Reported or not,  
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that needs to be addressed  
and dealt with in a positive way.*

*I remember feeling  
disgust, shame, or guilt  
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(Continued on next page)

## Child Sexual Abuse in the Bering Straits Region

counselor was the fact that, in our village, the VBC tried to get different groups started, but the circle of trust was broken. The circle of trust is the most important part of group therapy, and they are afraid to have it happen to them. There is just way too much gossip in the village.

Another kind of therapy involves the parents and a moderator in the counseling of the CSA victim. The kind of therapy used depends on how long the abuse has been going on and what is best suited to the child's needs. Therapy can take anywhere from six weeks to six months, but the child can carry the trauma throughout their lives. What a clinician does through therapy is to teach the victims coping skills to help them deal with suicidal thoughts and depression because self-esteem is always an issue. I am so glad to have been taught to think positively through therapy, reading, and talking to people who used to be negative thinkers. All of these things make a big difference.

The clinician from Norton Sound Health Corporation says there are workbooks that specifically target sexual abuse. These workbooks include topics on anger management, coping skills, self-esteem, anxiety issues, and identifying feelings. They teach CSA victims to get in touch with their feelings and they discuss how their bodies respond to CSA. Victims have a tendency to dissociate themselves from their bodies to what is happening around them. When the sexual abuse has happened frequently, this dissociation is a common reaction.

Therapy for dreams and nightmares treat a victim's tendency to hold secrets and not communicate with people, and there is also therapy for kids who have to go to court that helps them prepare to face the perpetrator of the CSA. A child may or may not get the help she or he needs and sometimes, whether a child gets help or not depends on how child sexual abuse is viewed by the community.

My interviews suggested to me that how the community sees CSA depends on the viewpoint of different generations in the community. For example, someone in their thirties might be more willing to talk about sexual issues or CSA than an elderly person. People in their forties were told not to talk about such things. The lack of communication about CSA seems to have lead to destructive circle after destructive circle.

According to the thirty-something people, CSA was something that happened to them and they were able to tell someone about it, but they could never see themselves asking

for therapy because there is so much shame and fear of being judged and gossiped about. They talked about the abuse, but it was mostly buddies telling secrets to buddies.

According to the people in their forties, CSA was something they absolutely could not mention when they were young. If they said they were sexually abused or molested, they were blamed by family and community members. It was their fault. For them, CSA was something they told someone about many years later. They never got any help at all, and the wounds of the sexual abuse and all the problems associated with it have just festered. These are the people who have spent much of their lives abusing drugs or alcohol because they were not allowed to talk about the pain they suffered.

People in their fifties either had no idea CSA occurred, or it was forbidden to ever mention child sexual abuse. The same goes for the people in their sixties and seventies.

Many of these people are unable to get help because of the shame, blame, guilt, and misconceptions that surround getting help for a problem that is so much more widespread than people are willing to admit.

It is very hard to admit to someone that you have been sexually abused, but it is the best thing a person can do for one's self. Anyone who has been victimized by CSA should get help through some type of counseling because it is important for the healing process. Norman Vincent Peale once said, "The secret of life isn't what happens to you but what you do with what happens to you."



### Notes:

\* Ann Wobert Burgess D.N.S.C. and Lynda Lytle Holmstrom, PhD. "Rape Trauma Syndrome" *American Journal of Psychiatry* 131:9, September 1974.

\*\* Confidential interviews of various residents in the Bearing Straits region conducted by Karlene Sagoonick, March and April 2004.



**D** DARKNESS to LIGHT'S  
**5 STEPS**  
TO PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN™

**A guide for responsible adults**

# DARKNESS TO LIGHT®

We are a national nonprofit organization that seeks to empower adults to prevent child sexual abuse. Our programs raise awareness and educate adults about how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.



## What is child sexual abuse?

- Any sexual act between an adult and a minor, or between two minors, when one exerts power over the other.
- Forcing, coercing or persuading a child to engage in any type of sexual act. It also includes non-contact acts such as exhibitionism, exposure to pornography, voyeurism and communicating in a sexual manner by phone or Internet.
- Often a traumatic experience for children and teens.
- A crime punishable by law.



## This booklet is only the beginning.

Child sexual abuse is a complex problem and this booklet touches on only a small part of it. The information we provide is not a substitute for the advice of professionals or more thorough training. But, taking these 5 Steps in families and youth settings creates safer communities and helps protect the wellbeing of the children we love.



7 Radcliffe Street, Suite 200, Charleston, SC 29403

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## **5 Steps to Protecting Our Children™**

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***We believe that protecting children from sexual abuse is an adult responsibility.***

---

*About 1 in 10 children experience child sexual abuse before their 18th birthday.*

Child sexual abuse happens in families, but also in organizations. Children brave terrible abuses alone, and repeatedly, often with no protection. Sometimes adults have simply lacked prevention knowledge, or not had the awareness to recognize signs. Sometimes we've dismissed gut feelings, and missed opportunities for courage. Some have covered up sexual abuse at the expense of our children.



***But this is only one part of the truth.***

1 in 10 is a rate that is down from previous generations. Our culture is changing.

***We're starting to face the pain of child sexual abuse and do what needs to be done.***

***We can uncover and prevent child sexual abuse – child by child.***

---

***We must act as a community.***

---

**STEP****1****LEARN THE FACTS**

**1 in 10 children are sexually abused. This means realities rather than blind trust should influence our choices regarding children's safety from sexual abuse.**

***It is likely that you know a child who has been or is being abused.***

- Experts estimate that about 1 in 10 children are sexually abused before their 18th birthday.
- Youth are the victims in 66% of all sexual offenses reported to law enforcement.
- Youth are 2.5 times more likely to be raped than adults.
- About 40% of victims are 11 years old or younger.
- 9% of 10-17 year olds receive a sexual request while on the Internet.
- Sexually abused children are at greater risk for psychological, emotional, social and physical problems, often lasting into adulthood.



**Child pornography is child sexual abuse.  
All child pornography is illegal.**

A child is being abused whenever sexual acts are recorded in the production of child pornography.

**Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children is also child sexual abuse.**

- Anytime money or something of value is promised or exchanged, it is commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- 90% of children who are sexually exploited have a history of child sexual abuse.

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***Most child victims never report sexual abuse.***

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If you discover child pornography or commercial sexual exploitation of children, you must call your local law enforcement or the Cyber Tipline® 1-800-THE-LOST, operated by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Or visit <http://www.missingkids.com/CyberTipline> to make a report online.

***It's also likely that you know an abuser. The greatest risk to children doesn't come from strangers, but from people we know and trust.***

- 90% of children who are sexually abused know their abuser.
  - 30% are abused by family members.
  - 60% are abused by people the family trusts. Those who abuse gain access to the child in a school, church, sports club, etc. and often move into a position of trust within the family.
- Only about 10% are abused by strangers.
- 40% are abused by older or larger youth, like babysitters or cousins.

**People who sexually abuse children often go out of their way to appear trustworthy.**

**Research demonstrates that sexually abused children are more likely to experience serious consequences during childhood and *throughout their lives*. Some of these are:**

- Post traumatic stress disorder
- Anxiety and depression
- Substance abuse
- Aggression, oppositionality, and defiance
- Criminal behavior and violent offenses
- Sexual Promiscuity
- Teen pregnancy and motherhood
- Self-inflicted harm
- Delinquency
- Decreased school performance and dropout
- Health problems
- Suicide

**Eliminate or reduce isolated, one-on-one situations to decrease risk for abuse.**

***More than 80% of sexual abuse incidents happen in isolated, one-on-one situations with a child.***

- Choose group situations and have multiple adults supervise children.
- Scan the physical environment for hidden areas and correct dangers.
- Make sure interactions can be observed and interrupted.
- Remember that older youth should not be in isolated, one-on-one situations with younger children.

***Ask for these best practices in schools and organizations that serve your children.***

- Background checks
- In-person interviews for new hires and volunteers
- Personal and professional reference checks
- A code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- A policy for responding to disclosures and discoveries of child sexual abuse
- A policy for responding to inappropriate behavior, breaches in policy, and suspicions of abuse
- Prevention training for employees, volunteers, parents, and caregivers

**D** DARKNESS TO LIGHT'S  
**STEWARDS of CHILDREN®**

**Prevention training for staff, volunteers,  
and parents creates a culture of awareness.**

**It gives people the skills  
to create safer environments.**

**It makes them more willing to intervene  
in unsafe behaviors by adults with children.**

**Prevention training for adults creates  
an environment with much less opportunity  
for those who may offend.**

***Stewards of Children* is a program that teaches adults to:**

- Prevent sexual abuse before it can happen.
- Recognize signs of sexual abuse in children.
- Recognize unsafe behaviors by adults.
- React responsibly when a child discloses, or when an adult discovers or suspects sexual abuse.



**Visit [D2L.org](http://D2L.org)**

- To find a facilitator who can bring *Stewards of Children* to your organization.
- To take *Stewards of Children* online today.

**Have open conversations with children about our bodies, sex, and boundaries.**

***Understand why children are afraid to tell.***

- The abuser sometimes threatens the child or a family member.
- The abuser may try to confuse the child about right and wrong.
- Many abusers tell children the abuse is “okay” or “a game.”
- The abuser may shame the child, blame the child, or tell the child that his/her parents will be angry.
- Children are afraid of disrupting or hurting their family.
- Some children who did not initially disclose are afraid to tell when it happens again.
- Some children are too young to understand.

***Know how children communicate.***

- Children may ask questions about bodies, interactions, or sex, rather than talk directly about something they’ve experienced.
- Children may tell parts of what happened, or pretend it happened to someone else, to check your reaction.
- Children who disclose sexual abuse often tell a trusted adult other than a parent.
- Children will often shut down and refuse to tell more if you respond emotionally or negatively.

---

***One of the best protections is  
our relationship with children.***

---

### ***Talk openly with children.***

Talking about boundaries and sex forges a protective bond between parent and child, and instills knowledge that makes children and teens less vulnerable. Other adults in the child's life can find ways to teach sexual and body safety as well.

- Talk with children when they are young, and use proper names for body parts.
- Tell children what sexual abuse is, and when age appropriate, about sex.
- Tell children what parts of the body others should not touch. Use examples with situations and people in their lives.
- Teach children that they have the right to tell any person "NO" to unwanted or uncomfortable touch.
- Tell children it is not OK for adults or older youth to use sexual words with them, or to act in a sexual way.
- Explain that secrets can be harmful, and if someone asks them to keep a secret, they should tell you about it.
- Teach children not to give out email or home addresses, phone numbers or other personal information while using the Internet or handheld devices.
- Ask children about their online experiences and learn about the sites and services they use.
- Explore with children who their trusted adults are in the settings they frequent.
- Speak and listen quietly and calmly. It's important that children feel safe and loved in all of these discussions.

***"No one should touch you where a bathing suit covers."***

***"Your whole body is private when you want it to be.  
You get to decide who touches you."***

***"Sometimes touch might just feel uncomfortable, even if you like the person. Whenever it's uncomfortable, you can say no."***

**STEP****4****RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS**

**Know the signs of abuse to protect children from further harm.**

*Learn the signs in children and teens.*

Physical signs are not common, but the following should be carefully examined by a professional:

- Bruising, bleeding, redness, rashes, bumps or scabs especially around the genitals
- Urinary tract infections
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Abnormal discharge
- Chronic stomach pain, headaches or other ailments that can't be explained medically

*Emotional and behavioral signs are more common.*

- Withdrawal
- Depression
- Anger, rebellion, defiance
- Agitation or inability to concentrate
- Fear of situations or people
- Sexual behavior and language that are not age-appropriate
- Falling grades
- Use of alcohol or drugs, especially at a young age
- A change in behavior

Call child protective services or the police in your area.

Use a Children's Advocacy Center whenever possible. To find one, visit the National Children's Alliance at [www.nationalchildrensalliance.org](http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org) or call 1-800-239-9950.

***Signs don't always mean sexual abuse, but signs can be a reason to take more interest in the child.***

## Understand how to respond to risky behaviors and suspicions or reports of abuse.

There are 3 reasons we need to react to sexual abuse.

- A child discloses it to us.
- We discover it ourselves.
- We have reason to suspect it.

### *Disclosure*

A child has broken through secrecy, fear, and shame and has chosen you as the person he or she trusts enough to tell. Honor that with attention, compassion and belief.

- Listen calmly and openly.
- Don't fill in the gaps, or rush to "get to the bottom of it."
- Don't ask leading questions about details.
- Ask only open ended questions like, "What happened next?"  
Or say, "It's ok to tell me more."
- Believe the child.
- Tell the child he's done nothing wrong.
- Affirm the child's courage.
- Seek the help of a professional who is trained to talk with the child about sexual abuse.

**Few reported incidents are false.**

**STEP****5****REACT RESPONSIBLY*****Discovery***

You've witnessed a sexually abusive act by an adult or youth with a child, or you know by some other way that abuse has taken place. For example, a friend or coworker may have told you something definitive.

***In cases of disclosure or discovery, report immediately to local law enforcement or to child protective services in the county in which the child lives.***

- Tell the child's name and where the child lives.
- Tell the facts. This may include what the child has told you, or behaviors from the alleged offender that you saw.
- Tell what signs you've seen in the child.
- Tell what access the alleged offender has to the child.

---

***And remember, if you've discovered child pornography, you've discovered sexual abuse. Report child pornography to the police or to the Cyber Tipline at 1-800-THE-LOST.***

---

### ***Suspicion***

You've seen signs in a child, or you've witnessed boundary violations by an adult or youth toward a child. ***Suspicion means, at a minimum, you need to set some limits or ask some questions.***

---

***People who offend are rarely seen in the act of sexually abusing a child, but they are often seen breaking rules and pressing boundaries.***

---

***A bystander is a person who witnesses a boundary violation or sees a situation in which a child is vulnerable.***

### ***Bystander Intervention***

- 1. Describe the inappropriate behavior or the boundary violation** to the person who has crossed it.  
*"It looks like you're forcing Chloe to kiss and hug. She looks uncomfortable."*
- 2. Set a limit** with the person who has crossed the boundary.  
*"Please stop. We let Chloe decide who she wants to show affection to."*
- 3. Move on.**  
*"Chloe, let's go see what the other children are up to."*

***If there is a pattern of boundary violations or you've intervened and boundary violations continue, you may have reasonable suspicion. Make a report to the police or child protective services.***

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***We can make a difference  
step by step, and these steps add up  
to happier, healthier children  
and stronger communities.***

---



**Child Abuse Helplines** have staff who are trained to answer questions about suspected child sexual abuse.

Darkness to Light's helpline: 1-866-FOR-LIGHT to be routed to resources in your community.

Childhelp USA National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-4-A-CHILD

**Children's Advocacy Centers** coordinate all the professionals involved in a case (legal, social services, and medical.) If you're unsure about whether to make an official report or just need support, contact a children's advocacy center. The staff will help you evaluate your suspicions and next steps.

To find center near you, contact The National Children's Alliance at [www.nationalchildrensalliance.org](http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org) or 1-800-239-9950.



**This *5 Steps to Protecting Our Children* booklet is part of a larger training program called *Stewards of Children*.**

**Visit [D2L.org](http://D2L.org) to take the *Stewards of Children* training online, or to find a facilitator to lead it as training for your organization.**

The references for this booklet can be found at [D2L.org/5steps](http://D2L.org/5steps)



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Have questions?  
Need resources?  
**Get Help Now!**

Online Help Center  
<http://GetHelp.StopItNow.org>

Stop It Now!<sup>®</sup> prevents the sexual abuse of children by mobilizing adults, families, and communities to take responsibility and protect children before they are harmed.



351 Pleasant Street  
Suite B-319  
Northampton, MA 01060  
Phone: 413.587.3500  
Fax: 413.587.3505  
[www.StopItNow.org](http://www.StopItNow.org)  
[info@StopItNow.org](mailto:info@StopItNow.org)  
HelpLine: 1.888.PREVENT

### **Warning Signs in Children and Adolescents of Possible Child Sexual Abuse**

Any one sign doesn't mean that a child was sexually abused, but the presence of several suggests that you begin asking questions and consider seeking help. Keep in mind that some of these signs can emerge at other times of stress such as:

- During a divorce
- Death of a family member or pet
- Problems at school or with friends
- Other anxiety-inducing or traumatic events

### **Behavior you may see in a child or adolescent**

- Has nightmares or other sleep problems without an explanation
- Seems distracted or distant at odd times
- Has a sudden change in eating habits
  - Refuses to eat
  - Loses or drastically increases appetite
  - Has trouble swallowing.
- Sudden mood swings: rage, fear, insecurity or withdrawal
- Leaves "clues" that seem likely to provoke a discussion about sexual issues
- Writes, draws, plays or dreams of sexual or frightening images
- Develops new or unusual fear of certain people or places
- Refuses to talk about a secret shared with an adult or older child
- Talks about a new older friend
- Suddenly has money, toys or other gifts without reason
- Thinks of self or body as repulsive, dirty or bad
- Exhibits adult-like sexual behaviors, language and knowledge

### **Signs more typical of younger children**

- An older child behaving like a younger child (such as bed-wetting or thumb sucking)
- Has new words for private body parts
- Resists removing clothes when appropriate times (bath, bed, toileting, diapering)
- Asks other children to behave sexually or play sexual games
- Mimics adult-like sexual behaviors with toys or stuffed animal
- Wetting and soiling accidents unrelated to toilet training



## Signs more typical in adolescents

- Self-injury (cutting, burning)
- Inadequate personal hygiene
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Sexual promiscuity
- Running away from home
- Depression, anxiety
- Suicide attempts
- Fear of intimacy or closeness
- Compulsive eating or dieting

## Physical warning signs

Physical signs of sexual abuse are rare. If you see these signs, bring your child to a doctor. Your doctor can help you understand what may be happening and test for sexually transmitted diseases.

- Pain, discoloration, bleeding or discharges in genitals, anus or mouth
- Persistent or recurring pain during urination and bowel movements
- Wetting and soiling accidents unrelated to toilet training

## What You Can Do If You See Warning Signs

- Create a Safety Plan. Don't wait for "proof" of child sexual abuse.
- Look for patterns of behavior that make children less safe. Keep track of behaviors that concern you. This Sample Journal Page can be a helpful tool.
- See our Let's Talk Guidebook for tips on speaking up whenever you have a concern.
- If you have questions or would like resources or guidance for responding to a specific situation, visit our Online Help Center, <http://GetHelp.StopItNow.org>.

Remember, the most effective prevention takes place before there's a child victim to heal or an offender to punish.

For more information and guidance, please visit our Online Help Center, <http://GetHelp.StopItNow.org>.



Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest

Representative Geran Tarr  
Alaska Legislature  
State Capitol Room 114  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HB 233

March 4, 2014

Dear Representative Tarr,

On behalf of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest, I write today to thank you for sponsoring House Bill 233, which would establish sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention programs in our schools. As a health care provider and sex educator, we know that healthy sexuality education is an integral part of violence prevention.

The more information a student or teacher has about sexual violence, the more likely they are to identify sexual abuse or assault when it occurs. Teachers need the skills to recognize victims of abuse, and students need tools of their own to evaluate potential risks for sexual violence in their relationships. Discussing sexuality can also make those experiencing sexual abuse or assault feel more comfortable about speaking up and getting help. With proper training, teachers can also be better equipped to offer their support and resources to students in need.

Additionally, we strongly believe that sexual violence prevention efforts should take the extra step beyond discussions of abuse and assault, and explain what safe, consensual and respectful relationships look like. Evidence-based curricula in this area are essential to teaching students and educators the differences between healthy and unhealthy sexual behaviors.

Eradicating something as culturally pervasive as sexual violence starts with dialogue and awareness. House Bill 233 takes a great first step by educating both students and teachers about the warning signs of sexual abuse and assault. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Cler'.

Jessica Cler  
Alaska Public Affairs Manager

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest  
4050 Lake Otis Parkway Suite 205 Anchorage, AK 99516  
907.770.9705 | [jessica.cler@ppvotessouthwest.org](mailto:jessica.cler@ppvotessouthwest.org)

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

Dear Superintendent,

As the Legislative proponent for adoption of "Erin's Law" in Alaska, I want to ask for your help and support in passing this important law that will help ensure age-appropriate, culturally sensitive personal body safety information is presented to students statewide.

Erin's Law requires that a child sexual abuse prevention curriculum focused on personal body safety information to be taught to all public school students statewide. It will also require that teachers, staff, and administrators receive information on recognizing the signs of abuse. It will be implemented at the local level with the local school board retaining the option of allowing an opt-out provision for a student with a parent that objects to the curriculum.

With 90% of Alaskan students attending public schools we have an incredible opportunity to have a meaningful interaction that can prevent them from experiencing years of abuse. We can empower students to speak up and stop the cycle of abuse.

I want to extend my personal gratitude to the Fairbanks North Star Borough School Board for instituting "Erin's Policy" in Fairbanks schools last August. This is such an important step to protect and empower our children, and it has been shown that kids will speak up when they are taught that it's okay. The new policy has been welcomed by parents and district employees and the early results are promising.

The national statistics are grim. 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually assaulted before they turn 18. In Alaska, there are thousands of allegations of child sexual abuse every year. Disturbingly, 90% of child sexual abuse victims will be abused by someone they know and trust – a family friend, coach, camp counselor, babysitter – and we know that most perpetrators abuse dozens, even hundreds, of victims before they are caught. We see this in the number of allegations in Alaska with multiple victims for each alleged abuser.

Tragically, in most cases the only person talking to a victim about the abuse is the perpetrator, who tells this child that they must keep the abuse a secret, they will get in trouble for telling someone, or that someone they love might be hurt. The best way to end this ongoing silent epidemic and empower children to speak up is to bring the conversation out into the open. We must teach children that it is okay, in fact encouraged, for them to speak up if they, or someone they know, is being abused. If a single victim is empowered to speak out against their abuser, they can prevent the abuse of a dozen or more other victims.

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

Erin Merryn, the survivor and dedicated activist working to pass Erin's Law in all fifty states, visited Alaska last March. During Erin's visit to Alaska in March, she told me about the times she visited schools in the lower 48 to help teach kids about personal body safety and that it is okay to speak out against their abusers. Her experiences taught her the power of educating children; often within a week of being at the school she was contacted by a teacher or counselor who began receiving reports of abuse from their students after learning it was ok to speak up. These students had never known that it was safe to come forward and were silently suffering, some for years, at the hand of their abusers.

I will work as hard as I can to pass this law. Our children are our greatest resource and I am committed to crafting common sense policy to keep them safe. I encourage you to begin the conversation now so that together we can achieve our common goal of providing a positive future for Alaskan youth.

Please feel free to contact my office, and know that Erin and I are available to answer any questions and to support you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geran Tarr".

Representative Geran Tarr

Jasmine Stanturf  
5360 Glacier Hwy  
Juneau, AK 99801

December 11, 2014

Rep. Geran Tarr  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Tarr:

I am writing to you today to express my support for Erin's law. I believe at a young age we learn more, and by teaching our kids the difference between good touch and bad touch it will give kids the knowledge to say "no" and tell a trusted adult. It will also help kids recognize when someone is showing signs of abuse and that could have the potential to prevent future assaults.

The main reason why I support Erin's law is, because when I was little, I was molested by my father and was too scared to tell anyone. I did not even tell my mother. My dad also made me believe that it was my job to take care of him (even though I was 5 and he was in his 30's). My little brother got the worst of it, after my little brother told my mother. The beatings got worse and I couldn't do anything but act like I was going to call the police but I didn't know how to even make a call.

When my mother found out I was being molested, and my little brother was being beat and molested, she divorced my father and applied for full custody, but they got joint custody. She was trying everything in her power to get proof that he was molesting us. She took us to doctor after doctor. They found signs, but not enough. I also wouldn't talk because I was too scared. After my father's drug bust my mother jumped on the opportunity, and made him sign a paper saying she could leave with my brother and I.

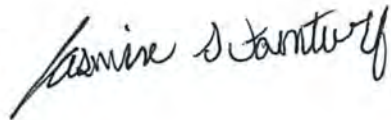
By the time I was 8 we had moved to Alaska. I still didn't talk, until one day when I was 10, I stayed in from a recess and told the lady who came in from AWARE, and I told her everything that I remembered. I can't remember a lot because my mind put a block on some of the bad things my father did to us. I was in counseling until I was 12. I'm 16 now. I get flash backs from time to time and I am now working through PTSD while slowly remembering things, and telling them to my mom. My brother is 13, and in a facility. They are treating him for PTSD, and depression and a little bit of autism.

I hope that one day I can counsel adults or children that have gone through similar things as I have. I hope to let them know that they can move on, there is a life after abuse, and it is not their fault. When I grow up I want to create an organization, and to help support ideas like Erin's law.

Thank you for listing.

Sincerely,

Jasmine Stanturf

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jasmine Stanturf". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

## **1068 Erin's Policy for a Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program**

The school district shall develop a comprehensive child sexual abuse program with the goal of informing students and staff about child sexual abuse and available resources.

The program shall include, but not be limited to:

- 1) adopting a child sexual abuse curriculum to provide age-appropriate information to teach students the difference between appropriate and inappropriate conduct in situations where child sexual abuse could occur, and to identify actions a child may take to prevent and report sexual abuse or sexual assault;
- 2) providing students with resources and referrals to handle these potentially dangerous situations;
- 3) providing students access to available counseling and educational support;
- 4) providing mandatory training to all district staff to ensure they are fully informed on:
  - a) the warning signs of sexual abuse and sexual misconduct involving a child,
  - b) mandatory reporting requirements,
  - c) school district policies,
  - d) establishing and maintaining professional relationships with students,
  - e) available resources for children affected by sexual abuse or misconduct;
- 5) methods for increasing teacher, student, and parent awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse of children; and
- 6) A minor student shall be excused from participating in classroom instruction regarding sexual abuse and sexual assault upon receipt by the principal of a written request from the student's parent or guardian.

[Reply](#) [Reply All](#) [Forward](#)

## H.B. 233: Testimony in Support

Esther Smith [smith.l.esther@gmail.com]

**To:** [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#)

**Cc:** [Rep. Geran Tarr](#)

Thursday, March 27, 2014 7:40 PM

Dear Chair Gattis,

I stand strongly in support of H.B. 233, which relates to sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention efforts in public schools throughout the state of Alaska.

Legislation of this strength, scope, and content is long overdue in this state. We know that violence is a learned behavior, which means that we can prevent it from occurring with proper, comprehensive education policies. "Erin's Law" seeks to fill a much needed gap within our education system by recognizing the need for mandatory training and awareness on the subjects of sexual abuse and sexual assault.

As a young adult who has spent the last several decades living in Eagle River and, now, Juneau, Alaska, I cannot count the number of loved ones that have bravely shared with me their traumatic childhood experiences with sexual violence and abuse. Their experiences, told so many years after the violence occurred, highlight the power and control and manipulation tactics that perpetrators use to groom and isolate victims.

Throughout this state, there is so much shame and blame directed at victims of sexual abuse and violence. People feel deeply uncomfortable discussing this subject and it's treated like a Pandora's Box: the moment people address Alaska's horrific rates of violence, they have to recognize how endemic this issue is and how the perpetrators are our neighbors, our friends, and our family members. It's a deeply uncomfortable realization that quite a few people would prefer to avoid. But it is a deeply important conversation that needs to be occurring throughout the entire state and within our schools.

The question is not whether or not violence is preventable. The question is how do we best prevent it. H.B. 233 provides a succinct, comprehensive approach to a very real challenge by recognizing that our legislature has a role in promoting violence prevention and our school system has a role in educating students, parents, and staff about this very serious subject.

As the Chair of the Committee on Education, you play a powerful and unique role in addressing the needs of Alaska's children and youth through meaningful, thoughtful legislation. Please seize this opportunity and employ empathy as you listen to testimony tomorrow morning.

Sincerely,  
Esther Smith

3/31/2014

HB 233

[Reply](#) [Reply All](#) [Forward](#)



## HB 233

Christine Gerlock [cmgerlock@hotmail.com]

**To:** [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#)

**Cc:** [Rep. Geran Tarr](#)

Thursday, March 27, 2014 7:42 PM

- You replied on 3/27/2014 10:34 PM.

Rep. Gattis,

Please consider supporting House Bill 233, Erin's Law which will provide age appropriate sexual abuse education to children in public schools. This is an important step in empowering children to recognize and report child sexual abuse. Since Alaska has a high rate child sexual abuse, this is an amazing opportunity to change the lives of Alaskan children and their families.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Christine M. Gerlock



February 12, 2014

Dear Representative Tarr,

Child abuse in Alaska is a chronic and devastating problem. To overcome the high rates of abuse in Alaska, prevention efforts need to be deployed at multiple levels in order to break the cycle of abuse and give children in Alaska the tools they need to reach their full potential.

Unfortunately, the trauma and sustained stress associated with child abuse has been shown to undermine a child's development. Such factors damage the developing brain and adversely impact a child's learning and behavior, making academic achievement more difficult. Moreover, such factors increase susceptibility to physical and mental illness and put children at higher risk for involvement in delinquent and/or criminal activities. When children do not have equal opportunity for healthy growth and development, we are putting the future society of Alaska at risk.

The All Alaska Pediatric Partnership supports Erin's Law (House Bill No. 233) as one component of a statewide prevention system needed to help reduce child abuse and neglect. Alaska's schools need comprehensive health education standards that can compliment a statewide prevention system with funding to support improved outcomes.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Monahan  
Executive Director



Matthew Hirschfeld, MD/PhD  
Co-Chair—Executive Committee

**Emily Stevens**, RN, BSN, MSN

Emily Stevens  
Co-Chair—Executive Committee

**The All Alaska Pediatric Partnership**  
PO Box 230567  
Anchorage, AK 99523  
[www.a2p2.com](http://www.a2p2.com)

February 13, 2014

P.O. Box 4105  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Re: HB No. 233

Representative and Senators,

I am writing to support Representative Tarr's HB 133, "Erin's Law". Unlike many Alaskans, I have first-hand experience working with students to raise awareness of sexual abuse and assault. For twelve years, I was an Assistant District Attorney for the State. For a decade I worked in the Palmer District Attorney's Office where I was the sole attorney working on all sexual abuse and sexual assault cases in the Valley. I now own a business where I routinely give internet safety education presentations to students of all ages, which includes awareness on sexual assault and abuse, and I have presented to staff and counselors on mandatory reporting issues. Finally, though this letter is my personal opinion, I do sit on the Governor's Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault as a public member.

School districts must be involved in educating our youth in these areas. Violence affects many children, which in turn affects their ability to learn. Schools need to teach not just reading, writing and arithmetic, but also issues that affect the emotional well-being and future of children.

Erin's Law is another tool for the State to use to reduce our ranking as the number one state in incidences per capita of rape and child abuse. Erin's Law is proactive not reactive, and the first step in prevention is being proactive.

I encourage and urge you to support HB 233 and help reduce sexual violence against our youth.

Sincerely,

Rachel K. Gernat



# NEA-ALASKA

*Affiliated with the National Education Association*

February 13, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of NEA-Alaska's 13,000 teachers and education support professionals, as well as Alaska's 130,000 public school students, I am voicing support for HB 233, "Erin's Law."

As education professionals, student safety is of the highest concern. From the moment students step onto the school bus in the morning until the time they finish their extracurricular activities in the evening, Alaska's most precious and valuable resource is in our care. It is our job to make sure their learning environment is safe, and to prepare them to protect themselves in the wider world.

Sexual assault and abuse prevention and awareness programs are a key component of keeping Alaska's children safe. Such programs allow Alaskan educators to recognize the signs of such violence more quickly, and provide an immediate and direct route of aid for students. It is important that every Alaskan child knows that he or she can speak out to find safety from sexual assault and abuse.

As educators, our students' safety always comes first. We wholeheartedly urge the passage of HB 233, which would mandate sexual assault and abuse awareness and prevention in Alaska's schools. Thank you to Rep. Lynn Gattis and the House Education Committee for taking the time to address this most important issue.

Sincerely,

Ron Fuhrer  
President, NEA-Alaska

Alaska State Legislature  
Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

February 5, 2014

Re: H.B. 233, Erin's Law

Dear Legislators,

As representatives of numerous youth groups throughout Alaska, we are writing today in support of H.B. 233, Erin's Law. Child abuse in Alaska is a chronic and devastating problem. Many of us have been subject to or know someone who has been a victim of abuse, be it physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, or neglect. As children, we suffered in silence thinking that this was just how life was. We were rarely empowered to speak up for ourselves and, even if we were, we did not know who to talk to.

This bill requires Alaska public schools to create lessons teaching kids, teachers, and staff how to recognize abuse and know who to talk to. We think that if kids and the adults they spend most of their days with had this knowledge, a lot of kids can be taken out of situations that lead to other problems later in life. Child abuse frequently leads to other major societal problems, like criminal behavior, drug use, mental illness, and emotional instability. Kids who are abused are also more likely to become abusers.

We all visited the Legislators this year and work for our organizations in order to be part of the solution to these problems. Every day, we meet youth with addiction problems, emotional trauma, and criminal tendencies. Giving these kids the power to speak up for themselves and giving adults the tools to listen could really make a difference in how they live day to day. This is why we are writing to ask for you to think about how much better Alaska could be and support H.B. 233.

Sincerely,

Nate Bennett  
Nate Bennett

Juneau, AK

Alaska State Legislature  
Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

February 5, 2014

Re: H.B. 233, Erin's Law


Dear Legislators,

As representatives of numerous youth groups throughout Alaska, we are writing today in support of H.B. 233, Erin's Law. Child abuse in Alaska is a chronic and devastating problem. Many of us have been subject to or know someone who has been a victim of abuse, be it physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, or neglect. As children, we suffered in silence thinking that this was just how life was. We were rarely empowered to speak up for ourselves and, even if we were, we did not know who to talk to.

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Sincerely,



Roseann Agoney

My name is Roseann Agoney, I'm 20 years old, and I live in Anchorage, Alaska. I was in and out of foster care for three to four years. After my dad got my siblings and I back somewhere back in 2005/2006 we've all been struggling since. I've dealt with drug abuse and alcoholism since then, but I can say now that I no longer am.

Ever since I was little all I can really remember is being around alcoholics and drug users. Seeing my parents and other family members drink and smoke I thought it was okay that did those things too. At the age of ten I would often steal alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana from my parents. At first it was to get the approval of my friends, but later on I was stealing those things because I felt that I needed them. After my dad got us back from OCS we lived in Anchorage and for me it was such a dramatic change that I started to do poorly in school. I was in middle school when I decided to be homeschooled and after that all I was interested in was getting high, just so I could escape the reality I lived in. Because my dad was into drugs and my siblings and I couldn't be around each other for long without trying to kill one another. Since my dad is disabled he couldn't work and due to that we were always struggling day to day.

I was always being put down by my dad almost every other day. In his eyes I was never going to amount to anything because I was smoking weed every day and drinking from time to time. It had gotten to the point that I had tried to commit suicide, but I thought about my younger sisters and who was going to take care of them.

When I was sixteen I wanted to prove him wrong so I tried to cold turkey everything the first time and ended up doing the same old things. So I started smoking and drinking less each time until I was like nope I don't feel like doing that. Because I realized how much of a better person I was when I wasn't high or drunk. I learned how to love myself; I saw how much I improved afterwards. I did better in school I graduated on time; I even had an internship with the RAISE Program! My younger sisters look up to me. But I'm still trying to be a better person, a good role model for my sisters. I'm trying to get a higher education so that I may get a good paying job so I can give them a home where they can grow and put roots down instead of drifting from place to place.

I hope that you keep supporting counseling, treatment, and job support for the youth in Alaska, so we can have a better brighter future. And to show that there are people out there who care, who are willing to help. Thank you for listening to my story.

Alaska State Legislature  
Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

February 5, 2014

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Sincerely,

Brooke wes  
Brooke wes  
nightmoonbw@gmail.com

My name is Brooke wes I'm from Juneau  
I fully support the passing of this bill, when  
I was a child I was sexually abused  
by my father and my older sister, I think people  
who sexually abuse others learned it from  
someone else. So I think it is a learned  
behavior I would really like to break the cycle  
Thank you

## Story Practice Sheet

- Is your story short and to the point? Is it only 1-3 minutes and only one page?
- Is it "real"? Does your story come from your heart and inspire others?
- Does your story let listeners know what outcome or action you're asking for – the "ask"?
- Use the reverse side, or a separate piece of paper, if you need extra space.

**Introduce yourself** – your name and residence, subject, and purpose. (2-4 sentences)

Hello my name is Brooke wees I am 22 years old. I was in foster care until I was 13 and then I got adopted.

**Tell Your Story** – the experience or challenge, the action, the result. (5-15 sentences)

I don't remember most of my childhood. I do know that a lot of the time my siblings and I did not have food or water also we did not have heat or blankets. we went days in our dirty clothing & we were born at home I was born into a family that badly abused drugs and alcohol we got beaten so badly that I could not sit for days we got taken away a few times but for some reason they would put us back but when I was six years old I was in a very bad accident and we got taken away for the last time.

**Wrap it up** – state your "ask" and say thank you. (3-5 sentences)

I think kids should be seen and heard you never know what goes on behind closed doors and the disabilities that might be even more effected by it so take the time to see and hear. thank you!

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February 5, 2014

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When I first was meeting with a social worker in 2nd grade, I was asked why I didn't tell anyone about the abuse. I told that social worker that I did, I had told my teacher. I don't know why the teacher didn't help me.

Ciara Goodman  
Ciara M. Goodman

## Story Practice Sheet

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### Introduce yourself – your name and residence, subject, and purpose (2-4 sentences)

I am born & raised Alaskan Native, Ciara Goodman. I am a college student @ UAF in Anchorage. Currently 22 yrs old. I aged out of foster care, graduated residential treatment, and lived in many places of Alaska. I consider myself an intelligent, empathetic, and genuine person and I want to help make a difference.

### Tell Your Story – the experience or challenge, the action, the result (5-15 sentences)

My childhood was filled with inconsistency, multiple homes & schools, rejection from family, early medication and a loss of my will to live. Addiction, manipulation, greed & lack of love contributed to the trials of my childhood. As much as it hurt to feel like nothing more than a file it was more painful to witness that I was not alone. That many, hundreds more, children carried the same burden as me, if not worse. And more so we could not see a light at the end of this dark & confusing tunnel. As I realized the depths of the issues concerning many homeless youth I felt the need to do something. Yet I was powerless then. The change that is seriously needed can only source from the power in charge, & unfortunately they didn't know the problem existed. These painful truths gave me the drive to carry on in hopes that I can find a way to break light into that tunnel and see that no foster kid walks through it alone, again.

### Wrap it up – state your "ask" and say thank you (3-5 sentences)

It is my desire to join the forces that will aid these youth and to help influence change for a better & brighter tomorrow. I hope to minimize the number of children facing the same sorrows and pain as I did and to increase those filled with love, hope, & fulfillment. Thank you for listening and please join me in supporting Alaska's Youth.

Alaska State Legislature  
Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

February 5, 2014

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Sincerely, Alex Krause

Alex Krause.

1/5/14

## Story Practice Sheet

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<b>Introduce yourself</b> - your name and residence, subject, and purpose (2-4 sentences)
Hello My Name is Alexandra Krause, I'm From North Pole Alaska, I currently live in Fairbanks, I work at QuizNoz and I ride in my car with my fiancée, who is a college student, and my Dog Romeo
<b>Tell Your Story</b> - the experience or challenge, the action, the result (5-15 sentences)
I grew up rough. Never around positive influences. Drug addicts and moving from home to home. I've struggled with homelessness my whole life. Growing up I had 13 child protective services cases on me and my younger sister. But we never got taken from my mother. I often wonder if life would have been better if they did take us. A gang through that I learned to lie about things so I could stay with my mom, they made it too easy. I moved out well, ran away at 11. And no one noticed, we was long gone. There I found S.O.A.P. They helped for a long time. When they started losing funds.
<b>Wrap it up</b> - state your "ask" and say thank you (3-5 sentences)
I can't receive help from SOAP any more because they have too many clients, and too little money. I'm not worried about myself this has been my life. But those kids are me and local homeless programs need much more funding and

services available to them. 2014 Youth Policy Summit Application - Page 5 of 5

Thank You!

Alaska State Legislature  
Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

February 5, 2014

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Sincerely,

 2/4/14  
James LeBlanc - Tweedy

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**Introduce yourself** - your name and residence, subject, and purpose (2-4 sentences)

My name is James Alexander LeBlanc - Tuxedo. My name before adoption was James Robert LeBlanc. I am twenty years old and live in Tuxedo, N.J. I was placed in foster care when I was 10 and was in and out of treatment and jail till I was 19.

**Tell Your Story** - the experience or challenge, the action, the result (5-15 sentences)

I can always remember when I was young and small and scared, ignored and always getting into trouble. When I was placed in foster care with my two younger brothers Isaac (6) and August (8) I was ten. When in foster care I never committed but accepted it after being placed in residential treatment. I was sent to treatment at the age of 14 for a crime I did not commit. I was then placed on probation. Now I have been between jail and treatment since I was 19. I was then homeless until now although I am now living in the city hall.

**Wrap it up** - state your "ask" and say thank you (3-5 sentences)

I hope the story I have presented to you will help you look at the youth systems and make the changes that would make young childrens lives happier and something they can be proud of. Thank you for reading my story, I hope it helps you make the needed changes that are needed. Thank you for your time.

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Juneau, AK 99801

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Sincerely,

Deborah

Deborah  
Yunak

Yunak

Scammon Bay

Scammon Bay

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My name is Deborah Yunak, I'm 19 yrs. old, and I live in Scammon Bay Alaska. I went to a residential treatment in the year of 2010 to Fairbanks for 9 months for substance abuse and depression

once I got into Junior high I started to get into trouble with marijuana use and alcohol. I thought it would make me cool and have more friends by doing substance abuse, I used it daily to where I got addicted. I started to miss school more often because I was so depressed missing my aunt that passed away. I'd always let my friends make me alcohol. I use to think doing substance abuse would help me go to my aunt, but nothing happen, my mom finally realize that I haven't been home, so she called the school attendance to see if I've been going school, she told my mom that I haven't been to school for a week now. when I finally went home I went home drunk, my mom scold me, I took it the wrong way and hung my self.

I hope that the support of our community programs help our young people with counseling, treatment, and jobs so they can be close to our loved ones, and our friends to stay out of big trouble. And I want to say thank you for listening to my story.

Alaska State Legislature  
Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

February 5, 2014

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Sincerely,



Kristie Lynn Sheppard 2.5.14  
Mountain Village, AK

Hello, my name is Kristie Lynn Sheppard, eighteen years of age from Mountain Village, Alaska. I was born in Bethel, Alaska. I am a Senior in High School, during the summer I work with Kwikpak Fisheries. My favorite things to do are math, writing poems and singing.

I have a lot of experience with being in foster care. The first time I ever got taken away from my mother I was five years old. My younger sister wasn't around. I stayed in an OCS facility for a while, then moved to a foster home where they treated me horribly. But I was too afraid to tell anyone. After about six months I moved with my mother and sister in treatment. A couple years later my two twin baby sisters were born. When they were about one year old we all got taken away by OCS. We all stayed in an OCS facility for a while, then were separated into different foster homes. We were all reunited after a few months, been to two different foster homes, then I moved to Mountain Village with my sister, the youngest ones are now adopted. I've also been to about ten different schools my whole life, which was pretty complicated.

This kind of experience is very hard to go through, no one deserves it. But sometimes we just have to deal with it. Children who go through this must get stronger because I had to. Well, thank you very much for listening to my experience and I hope this story would be able to help others. And I hope you can help by listening to our stories!

Hi my name is Nathaniel Bennett and I currently live in Anchorage, Alaska. I am part Alaskan native and African American and I have experience growing up in rural Alaska for about 10 years in the village of Chevak. I am a for intern for Alaska Native Justice Center assisting two Youth Advocates on working with you who have been in trouble with Alcoholism. I also attend the University Of Anchorage, AK as a Justice Major. I've experienced about 2 days of treatment at North Star behavioral center for underage drinking, which my parents sent me to. I've also had trouble growing up through bullied in school which led to problems from child hood to teen hood.

Since I was growing up at a young age I spent most of my life in the village. From the time I entered elementary I was bullied by my classmates and kids around the village because I looked different from the other kids in my village. Experiencing bullying at that young of an age caused me to lash out in anger against my classmates and caused me to verbally attack my teachers because they did not prevent the bullying that the kids were putting me through. So my parents stepped in and spoke to the principal and teachers to help stop the bullying. Since they did little to prevent the problem, my parents moved me out of the village and into the city. When they did that my anger and disruptive behavior quickly diminished against my new teachers and classmates. By the time I entered middle school and high school I formed a phobia with socializing with other people because I thought that they were judging the way I looked and spoke. So that caused me to live a very isolated and private life style. So after a while I became very lonely and depressed and decided to drink alcohol to relieve the social anxiety. When I would drink alcohol, it made me feel more "accepted" by others and I felt like I could talk to anyone without feeling judged and without feeling uneasy. After a while of drinking, I would

either get arrested for being intoxicated, wake up with severe hang overs, and get into fights with family and friends which would strain relationships between my parents and siblings.

I decided to give up drinking in order to show my parents, siblings, and friends that I was no screw up. I found myself in a prison without a job or diploma and decided it was time for me to be responsible for myself and to live a productive life. I studied for about a 6 months to prepare for my test for my diploma. I took the test and earned my diploma. As soon as I earned my diploma I applied for jobs. I had got hired for various different jobs that were involved in construction. I wanted to take a break from that type of work, and gain more experience in data entry, working with youth, and computer programs. I searched around for job openings, so that I could gain experience in helping people. So I got a job working with youth who were in trouble with drugs and alcohol at the Alaska Native Justice Center. With experience in living a negative life style into a productive and positive one, I plan to show other youth that they too can make a difference in their lives to stop underage drinking and drug usage and to be responsible in their lives by earning an education, staying out of trouble, finding career that they are interested in, and to be a productive citizen in their community.

I know that pretty soon the government will create classes, clubs, or programs to help educate youth from abusing alcohol/drugs, to stop underage drinking, and to ignore peer pressure from family and friends. Also to help show them the steps to live a healthy life style, to go to college or trade school, and to maintain their paths to success. I appreciate your patience to read my personal story, thank you and have a good day.

**From:** [Amanda Price](#)  
**To:** [Samantha Weinstein](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Erin's Law  
**Date:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 1:25:01 PM

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**From:** McGee\_Molly <[mcgee\\_molly@asdk12.org](mailto:mcgee_molly@asdk12.org)>

**Subject: Erin's Law**

To all Legislators,  
My name is Molly McGee and I have been a Health Teacher K-6th grade at Government Hill Elementary School in Anchorage for the past five years. I have taught abuse prevention to all students K-6th grade and I have seen from first hand experience how essential this topic is. Every year I have made 1-2 reports to Child Protected Services in order to keep students safe and/or to stop abuse from happening in the home. Abuse prevention is a topic that we cannot ignore, especially in the state of Alaska where sexual abuse is such a major problem. When a student tells a trusted adult about an abuse, this action can and does change the course of their life forever.

As an educator and a mom I strongly encourage you today to vote for the Erin's Law to build awareness, safety and most importantly to stop the cycle of abuse from happening and keeping all of our youth safe. Please call me or email me with any further questions. Thank you for your time.

Best, Molly McGee  
(907) 229-8006  
[mcgee\\_molly@asdk12.org](mailto:mcgee_molly@asdk12.org)

Molly McGee  
Health Teacher  
Government Hill Elementary  
(907)-742-5000



## West Anchorage High School

1700 Hillcrest Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99517  
(907) 742-2500  
FAX (907) 742-2525

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"Home of the Eagles"

To Whom It May Concern:

March 27, 2014

It is without pause I write to encourage the passing of Erin's Law in the state of Alaska. As a teacher of English at West Anchorage High School, the programs and educational experiences supported through Standing Together Against Rape (STAR) have proven indispensable. My students have interacted with educators from STAR, Victim's for Justice, the FBI, Anchorage Police Department, and Alaska Youth Advocates, to name a few, in order to gain a better understanding and a closer realization of sexual assault awareness and prevention.

Providing a Comprehensive Health Education Program for schools, students, and teachers would continue to provide appropriate materials for all ages to hear. In addition, it enables educators, and those working with children ages 4-18, with the proper tools to alert and inform individuals of the high rates of sexual abuse in Alaska. Personally, I have invited educators to my room for seven years in order to prepare my students with the proper knowledge of awareness and prevention before they head off to college, the military, or the work place. The educators have also helped some of my students, who were victims, reach out and find proper support.

If teachers in Alaska were asked to attend professional development activities to strengthen their understanding in conveying this essential information in their classrooms, or simply being aware for observation purposes, the advantages would be limitless. Just in my seven years of working with these outside resources, I have had students practice using the Internet more safely, come forward about abusive households, find encouragement from trustworthy adults, and realize ways they can start preventing these crimes from continuing.

Alaska would be remiss to not pass Erin's Law. As educators, we agree to provide a well-rounded educational experience for all students. Personally, I aim to prepare my students for a life after graduation that is balanced, knowledgeable, and communicative. In order to keep doing so effectively, the participation in awareness and prevention programs, as outlined in Erin's Law, is the integral components in offering success. Finally, Erin's Law is essential in moving Alaska forward in the hopes to decrease the high statistics of sexual abuse and assault across the state. Please pass Erin's Law; our students are counting on it!

Sincerely,

Angela M.C. Mazur, M.A.Ed.  
West Anchorage High School  
English Instructor

**From:** [Amanda Price](#)  
**To:** [Samantha Weinstein](#)  
**Subject:** LOS for hearing tomorrow  
**Date:** Thursday, March 27, 2014 1:25:04 PM

---

**From:** Kenning\_Lisa <[Kenning\\_Lisa@asdk12.org](mailto:Kenning_Lisa@asdk12.org)>

REPRESENTATIVE(S) Tarr, Gara, Drummond, Josephson, Kito III, Millett, Nageak, Munoz, Holmes, Edgmon, Costello

I've been an educator in the Anchorage School District for the past 25 years.

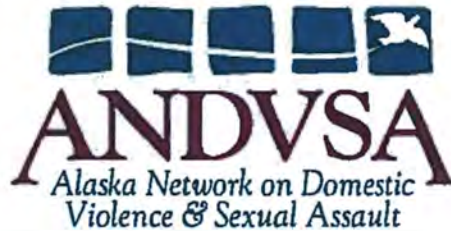
As most of you are aware, we currently have a curriculum on personal safety that is taught in grades K-6. If we are lucky enough to have a supportive principal, we can also invite S.T.A.R. into our classrooms for additional support. S.T.A.R. is an amazing organization that does an incredible job with our students.

As an educator, we need to be supported and provided the material and resources to educate our students on personal safety, which is an enormous problem in our state. I strongly support HB233.

Lisa Kenning  
Health Specialist

Main Office

130 Seward St #209  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Phone: (907) 586-3650  
Fax: (907) 463-4493  
www.andvsa.org



Pro Bono Office

PO Box 6631  
Sitka, Alaska 99835  
Phone: (907) 747-7545  
Fax: (907) 747-7547

February 19, 2014

The Honorable Representative Geran Tarr  
State Capitol Bldg., Room  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HB 233

Dear Representative Tarr:

The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) is a statewide coalition of 23 victim service agencies and affiliates that provide direct services and advocacy for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, including child sexual abuse victims. In addition, our programs provide outreach and education presentations in schools, upon request, as resources allow. Unfortunately, due to limited resources and staff, our programs are not able to fulfill all current outreach requests, particularly in village schools.

Schools are an important partner in our prevention and education efforts and we support the use of new tools to raise awareness, educate and provide critical information about sexual abuse to children. We know from experience, that early prevention and education activities are essential in stopping perpetration before it ever occurs.

Thank you for bringing this important piece of legislation forward.

Sincerely,

Peggy Brown, Executive Director

cc: Lisa Mariotti, Policy Director

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Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, STAR Barrow AWIC Bethel TWC Cordova CFRC Dillingham SAFE  
Fairbanks IAC Homer SPHH Juneau AWARE Kenai LeeShore Center Ketchikan WISH Kodiak KWRCC  
Kotzebue MFCC Nome BSWG Seward SCS Sitka SAFV Unalaska USAFV Valdez AVV



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WEBSITE

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24 March 2014

Dear Representative Tarr,

It is with pleasure to provide you with this letter of support for HB 23 – Erin’s Law. The Alaska Children’s Trust (ACT) is the lead statewide organization focused on the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Children are one of the greatest resources in Alaska. Each year, nearly 12,000 babies are born in Alaska - approximately 25% of Alaska's population is under the age of 18. Unfortunately, not all of these children live in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment. Research shows that children who experience trauma, like child abuse or neglect, have a greater risk of experiencing some of the social, behavioral and physical ills that plague our communities like obesity, diabetes, domestic violence, substance abuse, not graduating high school or entering the correctional system.

Alaska has one of the highest rates of child abuse and neglect in the nation. In 2012, Office of Children Services completed over 10,000 initial assessments of children. It is estimated that 65% of infants and toddlers in Alaska have at least one risk factor known to increase the chance of poor health, school and developmental outcomes. Nearly 30% of the children maltreated are under age 3.

HB 23 – Erin’s Law is one step closer to us ensuring Alaska’s children grow-up in a safe and nurturing environment. We encourage you all to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Trevor J Storrs  
Executive Director



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

## **HB23: "Erin's Law"**

### *List of Testifiers*

- 1) Representative Geran Tarr, in person
- 2) Erin Merryn, 847-306-0263
- 3) David Holthouse, Alaskan Survivor of Child Sexual Abuse, David.Holthouse@naungat.com
- 4) All Alaska Pediatric Partnership Representative
  - a. Matt Hirschfeld, (907) 729-1084
  - b. Emily Stevens, (907) 861-6729
- 5) Rachel Gernat, past District Attorney for sexual abuse and assault cases, currently sitting on Governor's Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, rachelgernat@gmail.com
- 6) Trevor Storrs, Executive Director, Alaska Children's Trust, (907)248-7370 or (907) 317-1756
- 7) Nancy Burke, Senior Program Officer, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, (907) 269-7961
- 8) Dov Gartenberg, Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness, (907) 314-0810



February 2, 2015

The Honorable Geran Tarr  
Alaska State House of Representatives  
State Capitol Rm. 409  
120 4th Street, Mail Stop 3100  
Juneau AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Tarr:

On behalf of the Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA), I would like to thank you for introducing House Bill 23 "An Act relating to sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention efforts in public schools."

The APOA Board of Directors recently reviewed this proposed legislation and unanimously supports this bill in its current form. Please contact the APOA business office in Anchorage at 277-0515, if there is anything our organization can do to assist in the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Brad Johnson  
State President

Cc: Representatives Keller, Kito, Gara, Josephson, Drummond, Tuck, Ortiz

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Phone: (907) 747-7545  
Fax: (907) 747-7547  
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February 2, 2015

The Honorable Geran Tarr  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Bldg. Room 409  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HB 23 – Sexual Abuse/Assault Programs in the Schools – Erin’s Law

Dear Representative Tarr:

I am writing to express our strong support for HB 23 – Erin’s Law. The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) is a statewide coalition of community based programs that provide direct services and advocacy to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, including child sexual abuse victims. In addition to intervention and advocacy, our programs are often called upon by schools to provide outreach and age-appropriate education to their students. Our programs provide these services as resources allow, but there are far more requests than can be met.

Schools are important partners in the prevention of and education about child sexual abuse. Teachers interact daily with children and their parents and it is critical that they are trained to identify signs of abuse. Children also need the skills to identify dangerous or inappropriate situations and tools they can use to become safe and summon assistance.

For 2013, the Office of Children Services (OCS) reported 2,296 allegations of child sexual abuse directed at 1,118 victims. Forty percent of the victims were Alaska Native. While OCS is still compiling its 2014 data, we unfortunately expect the number to remain near the same. Even one child being sexually abused is one too many and it is the reason that we need to pass Erin’s law this session.

Erin’s law will provide schools with the tools necessary to educate both teachers and children, providing critical information about sexual abuse to raise awareness and protect our children. We know from experience that early prevention and education are the keys to preventing child sexual abuse.

Thank you for bringing forth this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Peggy A. Brown, Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Wes Keller, Chair, House Education Committee

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February 2, 2015

The Honorable Geran Tarr  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Bldg. Room 409  
Juneau, AK 99801

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Thank you for bringing forth this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,



Peggy A. Brown, Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Wes Keller, Chair, House Education Committee

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