



**Alaska Association of Student Governments**

**Resolution # 2**

**Support of Alaska House Bill 310 Against Child Marriage**

**Submitted by: Mat-Su Career Tech Student Government**

**10/22/2021**

**Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that:**

- 1. Whereas,** under current Alaskan law, fourteen and fifteen year olds may be married if permission has been granted by a superior court judge;<sup>1</sup>
- 2. Whereas,** parental consent to the marriage is required for those who are under the legal age of majority;<sup>1</sup>
- 3. Whereas,** parental consent is not required if they are in disagreement, absent, unfit to decide on the matter, or arbitrarily withholding consent;<sup>1</sup>
- 4. Whereas,** in the United States, girls who marry before the age of 19 are 50% more likely to drop out of high school and four times less likely to graduate from college;<sup>2</sup>
- 5. Whereas,** more than 80% of the 200,000 child marriages that took place in the US between 2000 and 2015 were to legal adults
- 6. Whereas,** 70% to 80% of child marriages in the United States end in divorce;<sup>2</sup>
- 7. Whereas,** a valid defense against accusations of sexual abuse of a minor is that the victim was the legal spouse of the abuser and gave their consent;<sup>3</sup>
- 8. Whereas,** the age of consent in Alaska is 16;<sup>4</sup>
- 9. Whereas,** Alaska House Bill 310 was introduced in 2018. It was referred to the State Affairs and Judiciary committees, but has progressed no farther;<sup>5</sup>
- 10. Whereas,** House Bill 310 raises the age of marriage to 18, except for emancipated minors that are 16 or older and active duty servicemen;<sup>5</sup>

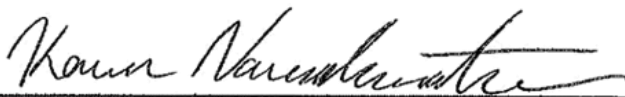
**Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments** supports the passing of Alaska House Bill 310.

**Action Statement:** if passed by the General Assembly of AASG, this resolution will be sent to the State Affairs and Judiciary committees and to Representatives Matt Claman and Ivy Spohnholz.

Sources:

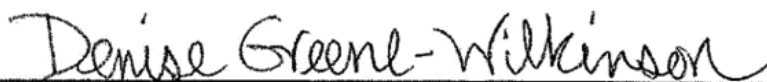
1. "Alaska Marriage Laws." *American Marriage Ministries*, <https://theamm.org/marriage-laws/alaska>. Accessed 20 October 2021.
2. *A National Overview of Child Marriage Data and Law*. 2020, <https://childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2020-Report-on-Child-Marriage-in-the-US.pdf>. Accessed 21 October 2021.
3. *Alaska Statutes 2020*, <http://www.akleg.gov/basis/statutes.asp#11.41.440>. Accessed 20 October 2021.
4. "Alaska Age of Consent Laws 2021." *Alaska Age of Consent & Statutory Rape Laws*, <https://www.ageofconsent.net/states/alaska>. Accessed 20 October 2021.
5. "Bill History/Action for Legislature." *Alaska State Legislature*, [http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/30?Root=HB+310#tab1\\_4](http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/30?Root=HB+310#tab1_4). Accessed 21 October 2021.

Passed Unanimously by the 2021 Virtual Fall Conference GA Hosted by Palmer High School



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AASG Vice President, Kamea VanDeventer



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AASG Executive Director, Denise Greene-Wilkinson