



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution #2

Anonymous Phone Line for Students in Need

Submitted by: Kylie Orlando and Francis Myers

[4/23/2023]

Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments: All high schools across the State of Alaska should implement an anonymous phone line that students can call or text, so students can voice concerns about any situations/people they may find worrying; including problems with drugs, weapons, mental behaviors, etc.

- 1. Whereas,** Sitka High Student Council believes that an anonymous reporting tip line for students would help with the increasing issue of drug use and declining mental well-being among our peers, while also creating a safer environment for all students;
- 2. Whereas,** anonymity will be forfeited in the case of (1) an active threat, such as threat of suicide, or (2) a malicious false report of a threat;⁶
- 3. Whereas,** the availability of the tip line will be communicated with students, at a minimum, quarterly;⁸
- 4. Whereas,** the phone number to the tip line will be shared on all school and district websites;⁸
- 5. Whereas,** the Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey states, “The percentage of students attempting suicide during the past year nearly doubled, from 10.7% in 2007 to 19.7% in 2019.”;¹
- 6. Whereas,** 38.1% of Alaskan highschoolers had felt sad or hopeless for more than two weeks in 2019, which is an 11.2% increase from 2007;¹
- 7. Whereas,** the University of Michigan reports that, “among children and teens who commit suicide, 54% had communicated about, or engaged in behaviors related to, suicide or self-harm. In some cases, multiple friends knew that the attacker was suicidal.”;²

8. **Whereas,** Teenagers in Alaska are 25.67% more likely to have used drugs in the last month than the average American teen;⁴
9. **Whereas,** More than one-fourth of students in Alaska were bullied at school in the past 12 months;¹
10. **Whereas,** 8.5% of Alaskan students carried a weapon onto school property in the past 30 days;¹
11. **Whereas,** 66% of school shooters tell someone what they plan to do beforehand, and 89% had displayed objectively concerning behaviors which were observed by others;²
12. **Whereas,** Colorado state implemented Safe2Tell, a phone app and website tipline, in 2004, allowing callers and app users to remain anonymous. In 2017-18, Safe2Tell fielded 2,786 tips about suicide, 1,831 tips about possible drug use, 1,641 tips about bullying, and 692 tips about possible school attacks;
13. **Whereas,** The Safe School Hotline was initiated by Crimestoppers in February 2004 after the shooting at John McDonogh High School in select New Orleans Parish high schools. Upon the close of 2004-2014 school years, Crimestoppers assisted school officials in solving over 300 campus crimes including the removal of guns and knives;³
14. **Whereas,** just over half of the public middle and high schools in the U.S. have tiplines, according to the U.S. Department of Justice;⁵
15. **Whereas,** students are more likely to report warning signs of potentially threatening behavior if an anonymous reporting system is available to them;²
16. **Whereas,** Sitka High Student Council believes that if the majority of highschoolers with violent thoughts towards themselves or others tell their peers what they plan to do, and an anonymous tip line increases the chances of students reporting on violent behaviors, then it is within the best interests of the student body to implement an anonymous tip line;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports the implementation of anonymous tip lines throughout Alaskan high schools.

Action Statement: if passed by the General Assembly of AASG, this resolution will be brought before the Sitka School District School Board for their consideration, as well as the House Education Committee and the Senate Education Committee.

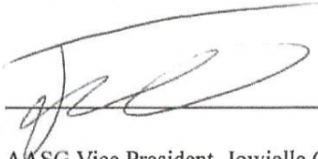
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Passed by the Spring 2023 General Assembly of AASG hosted by Skagway High School

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jowielle Corpuz', written over a horizontal line.

AASG Vice President, Jowielle Corpuz

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Navarre', written over a horizontal line.

AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre