For Immediate Release
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**Political Messaging Putting Kids in Danger**

*Anchorage, Alaska*- New political messaging being shared across Anchorage has prompted several local non-profits to band together and speak out on behalf of the safety of Alaska’s children. The campaign working to repeal the rights of our transgender neighbors, friends and coworkers are using “children’s safety” as a tool to create fear and garner support for their cause. These ads promote the old adage, “Stranger Danger.”

Statistics show where someone chooses to use the restroom has no bearing on a child’s safety. What we do know is that **90% of children know their perpetrator**. The *2016 Crime in Alaska Supplemental Report: Felony Level Sex Offenses* report, shows that 96% of the victims in Alaska between the ages of 11-17 years old knew the suspect. The report further shows that 74% of sex offenses occurred in a residence. That means these abusers are trusted friends, family, teachers, coaches and religious leaders. By spreading sensational ads, these groups may actually put our children at greater risk. Our goal is to empower parents with accurate information, and help them identify potential risks and develop the skill set they need to alleviate the dangers.

Parents rely on community leaders for this accurate information. Alaska has one of the highest rates of child abuse and neglect in the nation, and should have a zero-tolerance policy for information that is not based in truth or is not arming families with steps for prevention.

The non-profits listed below are uniting to make sure parents have the right information.

- Alaska Children’s Trust
- Alaska Children’s Alliance
- Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

Leaders within these organizations are available for more information on child abuse prevention and interview opportunities.

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Alaska Children’s Trust (ACT) was established in 1988 with the goal of preventing child abuse and neglect throughout the state. It does this by raising funds, creating impactful collaborations and supporting child and family centered programs across the state.
Alaska Children’s Alliance is a membership organization dedicated to helping Alaskan communities respond to allegations of child abuse in ways that are effective and efficient while putting the needs of child victims and their families first.

The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is committed to eliminating domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and teen dating violence against all Alaskans. We are made up of member programs that provide a wide array of services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.


\[ \text{ii} \] 2016 Crime in Alaska Supplemental Report: Felony Level Sex Offenses, prepared by Christen L Spears and Kathryn Monfreda.