

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Representative Lesil McGuire District 17

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McGuire Attends Violence Prevention Conference

(ANCHORAGE) – Rep. Lesil McGuire (R-Anchorage), is one of the Alaska's Legislators attending the Alaska Emergency Management Conference in Anchorage. She hopes the conference will provide valuable information on ways to prevent adolescent violence. Her own House Bill 99 is aimed at that very issue and offers alternatives to violence in our schools.

"On campus and related off-campus violence is a growing problem throughout the Anchorage area, from fights in the hallways to after school confrontations that draw invited spectators," McGuire said. "This forum offers us a close look at the situation from people who have unfortunately become experts because of a worst-case scenario. They are offering their experience and insight so that we can find ways of prevention of a violent situation rather than a reaction to it."

McGuire's HB 99 specifically addresses school violence and approaches the problem by finding alternative solutions for resolving problems. HB 99 will require that school districts adopt policies and strategies for reporting and mediating conflicts among students. In addition, McGuire wants to fund peer mediation programs through a combination of funds already provided for District 17 as well as grants. The bill is currently in the Senate pending a hearing by the Health, Education and Social Services Committee.

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