

Introduced by: Mayor, Ecklund, Cox, Tupper,  
Elam, Hibbert  
Date: 11/07/23  
Action: Adopted  
Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION 2023-078**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 68 AND SENATE BILL 66 RELATING  
TO HUMAN AND SEX TRAFFICKING**

**WHEREAS,** human and sex trafficking is the second most profitable crime trade worldwide, only behind the illicit drug trafficking crime trade, according to the Monique Burr Foundation for Children, the National Military Intelligence Foundation and multiple law enforcement agencies; and

**WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska has one of the highest rates of trafficking per capita in the U.S. with 1 in 5,852 Alaskans being trafficked for sex, which is 20 times the rate of the state of California; and

**WHEREAS,** human and sex trafficking crimes are being committed in the State of Alaska, including right here on the Kenai Peninsula; and

**WHEREAS,** Governor Mike Dunleavy created the Governor’s Council on Human and Sex Trafficking to combat the exploitation of all Alaskans from trafficking crimes, on December 14, 2021, and the Council has been meeting since then and published a comprehensive report in 2022 outlining the most recent trafficking crime data in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS,** a ten-city report conducted by Loyola University in 2016, that included the Municipality of Anchorage, found that out of 641 interviewed homeless youth, 1 in 5 of them were identified to have been victimized of human and sex trafficking crimes; and

**WHEREAS,** per an Anchorage Daily News article from 2017, titled *Study shows extent of human trafficking among homeless Anchorage youths*, 1 in 4 homeless women at the Anchorage Covenant House were identified to have been trafficked for sex; and

**WHEREAS,** within 48 hours on average, one out of three runaway children are solicited for sex, and the common age of recruitment is 13 – 15 years old and the average lifespan once recruited is seven years; and

**WHEREAS,** per the Kenai Peninsula Homeless Coalition’s 5-year strategic plan, in 2019, there was an estimated 895 homeless individuals on the Kenai Peninsula with 261 of those being our youth; and

**WHEREAS,** nearly 45% of trafficked youth were identified as Alaska Native, making them disproportionately affected by these heinous crimes as one people group; and

**WHEREAS,** on February 8, 2023, Governor Dunleavy filed and introduced House Bill 68 and Senate Bill 66, short title: Crime of Sex/Human Trafficking, which increases penalties for all forms of trafficking crimes and provides legal protections for trafficking victims; and

**WHEREAS,** on April 28, 2023, the House Judiciary Committee passed the bill out of committee and it is now in the House Finance Committee awaiting hearings and consideration of passage onto the full State House for a final vote; and

**WHEREAS,** the Kenai Peninsula Borough stands in support of passage of House Bill 68 and/or Senate Bill 66 that is greatly needed to strengthen Alaska's existing human and sex trafficking crimes and will result in more successful prosecutions and likely deter new crimes of this nature;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:**

**SECTION 1.** That the Assembly supports and encourages the passage of House Bill 68 and/or Senate Bill 66.

**SECTION 2.** That a copy of this resolution will be sent to Governor Dunleavy.

**SECTION 3.** That a copy of this resolution will be provided to State Senator Jesse Bjorkman and State Senator Gary Stevens, State Representative Ben Carpenter, State Representative Justin Ruffridge, State Representative Louise Stutes, and State Representative Sarah Vance.

**SECTION 4.** That this resolution is effective upon adoption.

**ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 7TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023.**

*Brent Johnson*

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Brent Johnson, Assembly President

ATTEST:

*Michele Turner*

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Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Cooper, Cox, Ecklund, Elam, Hibbert, Ribbens, Tunseth, Tupper, Johnson

No: None

Absent: None