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Governor Dunleavy Signs House Bill 325 into Law

On Thursday, July 28, Governor Mike Dunleavy signed [House Bill 325](#), which includes updated language for the legal definition of consent in sexual assault cases.

House Bill 325 defines consent as “a freely given, reversible agreement specific to the conduct at issue by a competent person.” In this case, “freely given” means that “agreement to cooperate in the act was positively expressed by word or action.”

“Finally, no will mean no,” Rep. Sara Rasmussen said in a statement. “I hope this sends a clear message that rape and sexual assault will no longer be tolerated in our state.”

In 2021, Rep. Geran Tarr initially introduced legislation updating the consent law as House Bill 5 to address the systemic problem of sexual assault in Alaska, which has the highest rate of rape in the nation. On the last day of the legislative session in May, Rep. Tarr’s law was included as an amendment to House Bill 325, which was sponsored by Rasmussen and passed unanimously.

STAR would like to recognize and thank Representatives Tarr and Rasmussen, the Alaska Network for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, and every person who wrote, called, and testified to their legislators to help increase justice for our Alaskan Survivors.

ABOUT STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST RAPE (STAR)

Since 1978, STAR has been responding to the needs of survivors of sexual assault, while integrating prevention and education programs with a goal of reducing harm to all Alaskans.

STAR provides 24/7/365 crisis and support services, including a 24-hour crisis line, court and medical accompaniment, advocacy, one-on-one support and trauma therapy, as well as prevention and education programs for youth and adults. All services for survivors are provided free of charge.

For information about the programs and services offered by STAR, visit www.staralaska.com or call (907) 276-7279. The 24-hour crisis line is (907) 276-7273 in Anchorage or toll-free statewide at (800) 478-8999.

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