

Dear Representative Young,

I enjoyed meeting you during my Close Up trip, but I was not able to ask you any questions that I had and still have. As you must well know Alaska's suicide rate, alcohol rate, and domestic violence rates are extremely high. I was born and am being raised in our beautiful state. I care for the land as well as our people. What is being done to lower these rates? Because the most effective thing that I have seen thus far was one student rally for Christians in October 2009. Even then, it honestly didn't do much. I hate having to walk around my small town and hear about suicides or see drunk people at every hour of the day.

The small Alaska villages get hit hard. My mother was a nurse out in the bush for ~~at~~ awhile at a point in her life. She described the Eskimos and Alaskan Indians as some of the toughest people she's ever met, and still every day there is so much pain? And death? I see families fall apart faster than... I don't even know it's so bad. Alaska is an amazing, beautiful state with unique people, I'm not saying it is some horrid place people shouldn't go. I just worry for the children in the villages because they are apart of our future. They are just as important as any other person. What is being done and will more be done?

Thank you for your time.

Timi Miner
Valdez High School May 6, 2010