



Cordova Family Resource Center
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April 6, 2016

Senate Finance Committee
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SB91 The Criminal Justice Reform Bill

Dear Honorable Senators:

My Name is Nicole Songer, Director of the Cordova Family Resource Center (CFRC). CFRC provides service to communities of Cordova, Chenega Bay and Tatitlek. The Cordova Family Resource Center is a victim services program funded by the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Our mission is to promote healthy individuals and families throughout the community by providing education, advocacy, and crisis response.

I'm writing in support of the reinvestment dollars in SB91 the criminal justice reform bill going toward DV/SA prevention programs. We support keeping DV/SA prevention dollars at the proposed \$2.5M amount. The latest Alaska Victimization Survey results suggest there is a strong correlation between recent prevention efforts statewide and fewer reported instances of violence. This is something we should be doing more of if we are to reduce instances of DV/SA in Alaska. Prevention works! In Cordova we currently have many prevention strategies in place. Some examples are: Green Dot, Girls on the Run, Coaching Boys to Men, B.I.O.N.I.C.(Believe It Or Not I Care)(peer lead mentor program), 4th R curriculum, 4th R afterschool curriculum, summer programs and youth from Cordova have attended the annual Lead-On mini-summit every year since it was created. Our youth then return from the mini-summit to our community with a prevention project for the upcoming school year. This year our youth created a music video and informational brochures addressing the issues that our teens now face (Teen dating violence, sexual assault/sexual consent, bullying, suicide, self-harm, and depression). Without these proposed funds we would not be able to continue the forward momentum addressing the issues where sadly Alaska ranks within some of the top percentile across the nation.

The ANDVSA programs already direct a good portion of their grant support from the State toward prevention projects but we're nowhere near the level we need to be at.

Please consider including prevention dollars in the reinvestment portion of SB91.

Again, thank your supporting our efforts in creating safe and healthy community and state.

Sincerely,

Nicole Songer, Executive Director