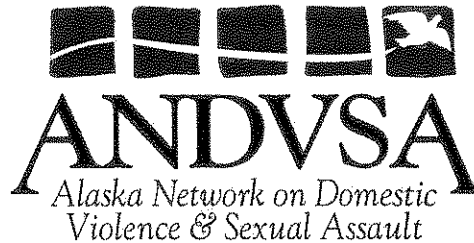


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February 7, 2011

Representative Lindsey Holmes
State Capitol – Room 405
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Letter of Support for HB 76

Dear Representative Holmes:

On behalf of the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault member programs, and the victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking that we serve, thank you for sponsoring HB 76.

HB 76 will bring parity to the statutes regarding remedies available to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking victims. HB 76 will insure that abusers, and not victims, bear the costs when a victim must seek safety for herself and her children. Under current law, a judge, in their discretion, may order an abuser to pay the costs incurred by a domestic violence victim who obtains a protective order. No similar remedy exists for sexual assault and stalking victims.

Obtaining a protective order for safety can often be a confusing matter, especially for those who have never experienced the criminal or civil justice systems. Attorneys can assist victims with successfully getting this safety measure, but the costs of obtaining a lawyer can preclude victims from seeking such assistance. Further, victims can face an additional hurdle when they need an interpreter to translate their story to the judge or magistrate and relay back the questions asked, when English is not their first language.

The legislature realized these obstacles victims of domestic violence experience in obtaining safety and included this remedy in the domestic violence statute. Unfortunately, when the sexual assault and stalking protective order statute was adopted, this remedy was left out. HB 76 will correct this disparity by providing the same remedies to victims of sexual assault and stalking, that victims of domestic violence already have and insure that victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking are treated equally under the law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peggy Brown', is written over a horizontal line.

Peggy Brown, Executive Director

cc: Lisa Mariotti, Policy Director

Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, STAR Barrow AWIC Bethel TWC Cordova CFRC Dillingham SAFE
Fairbanks IAC Homer SPHH Juneau AWARE Kenai LeeShore Center Ketchikan WISH Kodiak KWRCC
Kotzebue MFCC Nome BSWG Sitka SAFV Unalaska USAFV Valdez AVV