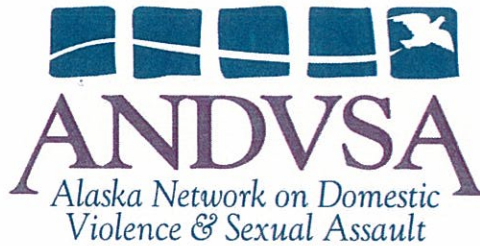


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January 25, 2012

Honorable Senator Hollis French  
State Capitol, Room 417  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Senate Bill 135, Right to a Timely Disposition

Dear Senator French:

Thank you so much for introducing this very important bill. The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault strongly supports Senate Bill 135. It is our understanding that this bill will provide a victim of crime, including domestic violence and sexual assault crime victims, a notice from law enforcement or prosecution when there will be a request for a continuance that would substantially delay a prosecution. All too often in Alaska victims have been disappointed in the process, procedure and outcome of their case. This bill will provide for consideration of the victim's wishes, the impact that continual delays will have on a victim of crime, and provide the victim with information of what to expect or what not to expect, in the nearer future.

Our eighteen member victim service agencies throughout the state witness daily the impact these delays have on the people they serve. Time and time again, our advocates appear in court with victims of both domestic violence and sexual assault, only to have their courage and hopes dashed by yet another delay. It has become a 'tactic' which, when employed, disheartens the victim, decreases their sense of safety and decreases their faith in the criminal justice system and the State of Alaska. Hopefully, this bill will strike a balance between the Constitutional right to a speedy trial for both defendants and victims.

Sincerely,

Peggy Brown  
Executive Director

cc: Lisa Mariotti, Policy Director

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Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, STAR Barrow AWIC Bethel TWC Cordova CFRC Dillingham SAFE Fairbanks IAC Homer SPHH  
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