



Archdiocese of Anchorage
OFFICE OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT
225 Cordova Street
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February 28, 2014

Senator Kevin Meyer
State Capitol Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Meyer,

I am writing in support of extending funding for The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) served under the Department of Public Safety. On behalf of the Catholic Archdiocese of Anchorage, I support the work of the Council and its many initiatives accomplished toward the vision of eradicating domestic violence and sexual assault within The State of Alaska.

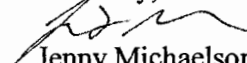
As the Director for the Office of Safe Environment for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Anchorage, we have benefitted greatly from the relationship developed between the Archdiocese and the Council and its support of local programs. The Office of Safe Environment not only concentrates on policies for prevention and responses to allegations of sexual abuse from anyone representing the Catholic Church; its mission and ministry is to address, as a faith community, effective ways to bring about awareness of the problems of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The parishes in the many communities of South-Central Alaska work in partnership with the domestic violence and sexual assault resource agencies when parishioners seek support from their parish community with the complicated dynamics of ending a domestic violence relationship or reporting a sexual assault. These agencies and programs, supported by the CDVSA also significantly assist our parish staff in the work of prevention through presentations and education to local and Archdiocesan wide events.

Through my experience working with survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, having a community, programs and policies which acknowledge the grave harm of violence and validates the need for justice is how we begin to change generational patterns. Awareness and education organized and promoted through the CDVSA and its partners is central to changing this societal problem.

Once again, I encourage the continued funding of the CDVSA. Through the Office of Safe Environment, the Archdiocese of Anchorage commits to continue the relationship with the CDVSA and local agencies in working towards prevention of all forms of violence and healing for survivors. If I can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Jenny Michaelson, LBSW, MPS
Director

