

From: [Mandy Massey](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Cc: ["Juneau Violence Prevention Coalition"](#)
Subject: Prevention Funding Cuts
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 11:47:34 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Senate State Finance Committee,

Please do not cut violence prevention funds.

My name is Mandy Massey, I am a 39 years old, and a life-long resident of Juneau. I was raised in a middle-class home in Auke Bay and my parents retired from the State of Alaska. I now own a home in the valley, I am educated, employed full-time, I make \$100,000 per year, and I am a single mom. I say all of this because sexual abuse and domestic violence nearly ruined my life, but I was saved through local programs and resources at AWARE.

At age 7 I was sexually abused by a baby sitter. At age 19, I was date-raped. That latter offender was prosecuted and incarcerated. 10 years later, I dated a man who became my abuser for nearly 2 years. I had been raised in a happy family and thought I would never "allow" myself to be a victim of domestic violence. I was strong-willed, happy, loving, independent, and smart. Despite my early childhood abuse, I did not think domestic violence could happen to me. I was wrong. I'm left wondering if prevention work could have helped me along the way.

Now, I have a 10-year old daughter who participated in "Girls on the Run". She is strong, smart, independent and loving. I also have a 13-year old son who is kind, confident and gentle. As a parent I educate myself, I teach my children respect of themselves and others, but I need tools to better protect my children in a State where sexual violence and domestic abuse are rampant. Parents and children from all socio-economic backgrounds can benefit from programs like Talk Now, Talk Often, Girls on the Run and Coaching Boys to Men. Please don't cut prevention funds that give parents and children the tools they need to prevent sexual abuse and domestic violence.

Prevention is key for making The State of Alaska a better place for our families. I hope for prevention. With successful prevention, fewer Alaskans will need intervention, because take it from me - by then, the devastating damage is already done.

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