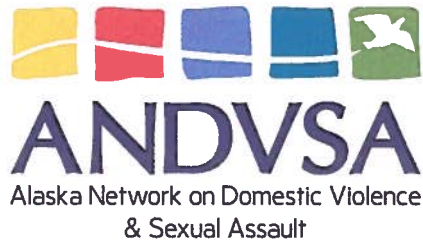


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February 29, 2016

Honorable Kevin Meyer
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol – Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SCR 20 – Sexual Assault Awareness Month, April 2016

Dear Senator Meyer

On behalf of our 18 member victim service agencies that provide direct services to victims and survivors of sexual assault, thank you for introducing SCR 20 to recognize April, 2016 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

In a 2010 victimization survey conducted by the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) Justice Center, it was determined that 37.1 percent of Alaska women, or 1 in 3, had been sexually assaulted sometime in their lifetime. This is in contrast to a national average of 1 in 6 women as indicated by Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network (RAINN). A subsequent 2015 study recently released by the UAA Justice Center reported that this rate decreased by 11%; while still representing 1 in 3 women as victims, it represents a decrease of over 3,000 sexual assaults with the largest decrease being those where alcohol or drugs are involved. This is proof that the intervention and prevention efforts being done to establish a healthier Alaska are working.

We also recognize that this issue does not only affect women, as young boys and men also experience sexual assault and currently the national statistics show that 1 in 33 men have experienced an attempted or forcible rape during their lifetime, with the age of 4 being the most dangerous time for young boys.

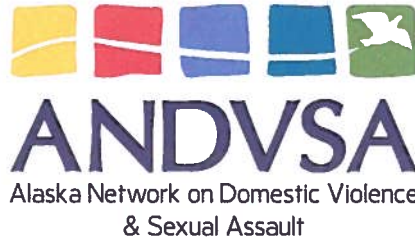
We appreciate your recognition of the dedicated Alaskans that range from passionate community members, volunteers, agencies, and advocates that are working together to ensure that victims have someone to talk to, a place to go, and services to address their needs.

We are honored to stand in support of the recognition of this work and to the dedication of a month to bring further awareness to not only the support services being provided to victims but the prevention efforts throughout Alaska. Prevention efforts such as Girls on the Run/Boys Run and Coaching Boys into Men all of which work with youth to build healthy relationship skills, resiliency and focus on positive adult role models are integral to our work in ending sexual assault.

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
Seward SeaView Community Services Sitka SAFV Unalaska USAFV Valdez AVV

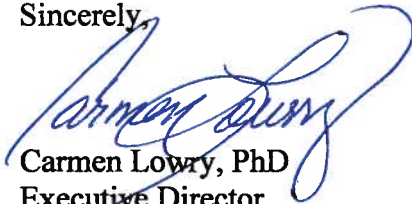
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We also appreciate the recognition of the evidenced-based Fourth R healthy relationships' curriculum being taught in schools throughout our state. Thank you for sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,



Carmen Lowry, PhD
Executive Director

Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

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