

House Finance Committee

Public Testimony HB 69 – Operating Budget FY22

Emails received to
HouseFinance@akleg.gov

April 8, 2021

From: Tiffany Hall <thall@recoveralaska.org>

Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 4:02 PM

To: Senate Finance Committee <Finance.Committee@akleg.gov>; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support of therapeutic court funding

Dear members of the Senate and House Finance Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Recover Alaska to thank you for increasing funding to therapeutic courts. The proposed increase of \$488,400 will improve access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and provide a better alternative to jail.

Therapeutic courts offer much more than just treatment. They provide case management, housing and employment assistance, access to health care and more. This benefits the whole state by reducing criminal behavior and helping to put people on a path to self-sufficiency.

Recover Alaska is a multi-sector action group working to reduce excessive alcohol use and its harms across the state. Our vision is for Alaskans to live free from the harms of alcohol misuse, so we are all empowered to achieve our full potential. One important part of our mission is increasing access to treatment and supporting recovery.

I urge your continued support for this critical funding increase which will benefit public health and safety. Thank you for addressing this need.

Best,
Tiffany

Tiffany Hall

Executive Director | she/her



3201 C Street, Suite 110
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-249-6644

Dena'inaq elnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. (Dena'ina)

I live and work on the land of the Dena'ina. (English)

Translation by J. Isaak and S. Shaginoff-Stuart

From: karenemalcolm@gmail.com <karenemalcolm@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 10:22 AM
To: Senate Finance <Finance.Calendar@akleg.gov>; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: FY22 proposed budget

Dear Sirs:

Please find attached a personal letter of support in directing state resources for beneficiaries of the Alaska Mental Health Trust.

Thank you for your time and for all you do!

Karen Malcolm-Smith
karenemalcolm@gmail.com
President, David Dylan Foundation
www.DavidDylanFoundation.org

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves in support of the preservation of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Reserve and the implementation of measures that protect dedicated funds as they were statutorily intended.

As a mother whose only son, Dylan Fuhs, was lost to opioid addiction following a near death ATV accident and the prescription of long- term pain killers, I have since become an advocate for the beneficiaries in which the Trust serves through the privately funded David Dylan Foundation. Dylan also suffered from TBI. He passed away in 2017 at a time when many support programs were not available, thus, self-stigmatizing that his life was not important.

Although I am now a member of the Alaska Mental Health Advisory Board, my advocacy comes from private and personal experience through four years of hands-on involvement and direct encounters with Alaskans in need of services who could become gravely effected by the shifting and efficiencies of the Trusts Reserve Account and Medicaid Funds.

Public assistance programs and legal services, therapeutic courts, homelessness, disability resources, transportation, provider/peer training, etc. are all essential services that the Trust has funded which provide Alaskans with services now in operable and effective status. The governor's proposed FY22 budget outlines key budget items shifting the funding to the Alaska Mental Health Reserve Account. The revenues from

the Trust's reserve account were intended to support such programs through partnerships and grants. There is no indication that these funds will be replaced.

Additionally, stakeholders, whom I encounter frequently, are concerned that a detailed plan outlining the proposed cost shifts, efficiencies and impacts to programs and services of the Medicaid program, has not been developed. The 35 million proposed reduction with a backfill from the CARES Act must be carefully strategized. In the vagueness of a concrete plan and a timeline for implementation, it may not be realistic that by FY23 the predicted efficiencies will be in place. This shift in could potentially effect Trust beneficiaries (Medicaid recipients) in unprecedented aspects.

It is human nature to expel the seriousness of issues when we do not have the firsthand experience of the desperation that other's encounter without the Trust's present services. As leaders entrusted with the safety and well being of Alaska's most vulnerable, please stand with your deepest conviction to continue to protect the dedicated funds for Alaskans who entirely depend on you.

Thank you,

Karen Malcolm-Smith
karenemalcolm@gmail.com
President, David Dylan Foundation
www.DavidDylanFoundation.org

From: Luann McVey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 2:49 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Senate Finance <Finance.Calendar@akleg.gov>
Subject: 2022 Budget

Dear Members of the Alaska House and Senate Finance Committees,

I wasn't able to testify in person about the budget today, but I would like to weigh in on my budget priorities. For years I have testified in favor of maintaining and enhancing K-12 education and our state universities; health and social services, including senior services and Pioneer Homes; transportation, including the Alaska Marine Highway system; and public safety. These areas continue to be priorities for me. I am grateful for the Pioneer Homes, where my parents in their late 80s are now able to live, and I appreciate our schools, at-the-ready to receive my grandchildren in a few years. I am

disgusted by the extremely limited ferry service available to coastal communities. Alaskans deserve better.

I've heard the governor is trying to close down several DMV offices. I'm opposed to this - it is not fair for smaller communities such as Haines. Residents of those communities will be forced to travel, at great expense, to larger communities, just to accomplish basic paperwork processes like renewing licenses. Please don't close those offices.

In terms of increasing revenue, I am in favor of a personal income tax. I would support a means-based formula for the PFD, but since that seems unfeasible in this political climate, I favor capping it at no more than \$1400. I believe the oil and gas industry has taken advantage of Alaskans and I still support greater taxes for the oil companies.

Please protect the above-mentioned services Alaskans need, in order to maintain our quality of life. We are not a poor state and our citizens deserve care.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Luann McVey

[REDACTED]

Douglas, Alaska. 99824

From: Robin Eleazer <releazer@gulkanacouncil.org>

Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 12:51 PM

To: Rep. Mike Cronk <Rep.Mike.Cronk@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Senate Finance <Finance.Calendar@akleg.gov>; LIO Glennallen <Lio.Glennallen@akleg.gov>; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Cc: Sandra Tsinnie <stsinnie@gulkanacouncil.org>

Subject: Transit Funds

Madam/ Mr. Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Roberta Eleazer. I am the Tribal Administrator for Gulkana Village. Our transit system provides over 6,000 rides annually for Copper Valley residents to get to work, medical appointments and social activities. The services cover the Copper Basin to Anchorage and areas in between. Our vans travel over 160,000 miles a year and is the only available transit system for 130 miles.

We are in extreme need of a garage to house our vehicles. The pandemic has impacted our ability to provide this necessary transportation in a poverty impacted region of Alaska. We were forced to shut down our routes to Anchorage and Valdez this winter. We cannot keep vehicles running at -35 degrees and we cannot sanitize them in these temperatures. The wear and tear on the vehicles is impacting our service. This year we have had to replace the batteries three times at an approximate cost of \$915. The price includes adding battery warmers to help keep the battery from freezing.

Additionally, we have funds to purchase a water tender to service homes in the valley in case of a natural disaster or a fire. However, we do not have a building to house this truck. This tender could be utilized by the Gakona Fire Department as needed for fire suppression.

As you are allocating the recovery funds, please consider this request. It is a critical need!

Roberta (Robin) Eleazer
releazer@gulkanacouncil.org
(907) 822-3746 phone
(907) 822-3976 fax

From: kathleen shoop <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 2:02 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Cut the budget

Dear House Finance;

As a long-term Alaska resident, since 1992; and one who has always paid all my bills myself on time and lives within my budget, I am letting you know that the residents of Alaska can not afford this Government. 33% of residents are Government employees where the rest of the States have about a 6%.

I live without a water utility and have hurt my back this year melting snow. Full PFD would pay for my well that I need. My back hurts.

There are many areas that could be cut but there are folks who want to see business as usual even though we the citizens are being hurt by the people making all the money and benefits. There are no incentives for new business opportunities in Alaska and very few options for future generations to survive in Alaska.

Do the right thing and cut the budget. I used to go to UAA dental clinic, one of my favorite chances to help future generations, but now this service costs more than

private professional services. I refuse to go to UAA until that University becomes single, of better yet, allow University of Washington to take over campus.

There are many ways you can serve the people of Alaska and the best tway forward is to live within your means, cut the budget!

Respectfully;
Kathleen Shoop
[REDACTED]

From: Helen Simmonds <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 1:06 PM
To: representative.josiah.patkotak@akleg.vov; Rep. Neal Foster
<Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>
Subject:

Dear best Representative's (beside my late Dad of course),
I'm sending this prior to the hearing which I hope I will be able to call into on the 8th.
for the mental health budget Public Testimony.

Please reply to me with others whom you feel I should.

Quyanaqpauraq. God's blessings be upon you and yours this day.

Helen Simmonds
907-319-9367

FY 22 Operating & Mental Health Budget

My name is Helen Simmonds and I am temporarily residing in Anchorage and my primary residence is Utqiagvik.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my urging for your continued support of this budget. I have seen great success these past years because of the leadership you have provided for these programs for mentally incapacitated and disabled community. Let us not forget the snowball effect on the families of these individuals.

I am deeply grateful in particular with group homes, their staff and support services that encourage growth.

Group Homes have allowed my son develop friendships and respect for others which

should begin in a home environment. Although late in coming for my disabled son and others like him I am actually seeing him and his peers succeed in that critical new beginning in their lives.

For my family, Support services from Dept. of Corrections began with Discharge Clinician, Connie Ambler upon release from prison. She helped my son graduate (literally) from probation with the best success I've ever seen my son accomplish. She hooked him up with UAF's Center for Psychological Development, Geno Daly, his great staff and the tribal SCF Qujana Clubhouse and staff. They both provided educational sessions and weekly meetings with (new friends). Q House after release from probation still provides group weekly sessions. I also just became aware of family therapy through the Q House which I am eager to start in the future.

As I stated, this budget also extend to their families successes. Since my son's onset of mental illness, his siblings were at risk for dropping out of school. Now 2 siblings have become homeowners and another with a culinary arts certificate. I was also on the brink of quitting a job that has allowed me to retire. And essentially i am here in Anchorage to support him after his last incarceration.

Please give your continued support to this budget. This budget provides successes to the vulnerable and provides much needed employment during these very difficult times. All of these successes would never have happened without your support. Thank you.

From: Bruce Van Dusen <bvandusen@alaska.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 8:08 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: From Polaris House

Greetings,

Thank you for your hard work and efforts. You are appreciated. I hope this note finds you in good health.

The Community Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery CBHTR grants provide important resources to a population of persons who are not normally heard at leadership levels. Most often persons receive these supports with no out of pocket expense and do not need to be insured through Medicaid to be eligible.

Polaris House uses CBHTR grants to ensure beneficiaries have access to safe, affordable and quality housing. Polaris House maintains robust employment programs meant to provide dignity and worth to beneficiaries. Polaris House supports beneficiaries who are seeking to further their education through local opportunities. Polaris House provides it's beneficiaries connection to primary care, other mental health providers, substance use disorder treatment and all other referrals and connections needed to provide and sustain good health.

Polaris House guarantees beneficiaries receive four rights of membership. Polaris House members have a safe place to go where they belong. They have the right to meaningful work. The right to meaningful relationships and a right to have a safe place to return to after any length of absence.

Polaris House is a community where the member belongs, is valued for the contributions they make and members find self worth and purpose by contributing their skills and talents to the community. Please continue to support the CBHTR grants. These important funds mean no person living with a mental illness diagnosis need ever be alone and without support.

Thank you for your continued support. Please be safe.

Sincerely,

Bruce

Bruce Van Dusen
Executive Director
Polaris House, Inc.
434 W Willoughby Av
Juneau, AK 99801
bvandusen@alaska.net
907-780-6775

From: Dixie D. Banner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 8:02 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Cut the Budget and Right Size Government

Simple - Cut the Budget and Right Size Government- plain simple! Much of the cuts can be completed by cutting HES department! 3500 state employees is outrageous! OCS definitely needs to be audited- they are not family friendly and dangerous! It is well known fact!

Do not touch the PFD fund - figure it - you all are Project Managers and are well paid!

No taxes until we have gainful employment/positive economy!

Cut Medicaid and require people to work a minimum of 20 hrs in order to access state benefits! If disable then a family member can facilitate the hours. Life is not free!!

The State needs to require community service by all individuals who have served time; ie after committing a crime! Hold people accountable!!!

Speaking accountability state contracts need to be audited for excessive profit (example DOT is an example).

Bottom line - we (Alaska) no have a life line so figure it out! Quit playing games at our expense!
Dixie

From: Nick Mazzolini <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2021 11:34 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget Public Testimony

Good Afternoon,

I would like to address the operating and capital budget of Alaska for the fiscal year of 2022.

We have been balancing the budget on the backs of lower and middle income earning Alaskans since 2015 by way of a regressive tax, garnishing our PFD. This "solve" has proven both costly (see the balance in the SBR and CBR... which we are statutorily mandated to repay. Statutes are too be followed!) and ineffective. It has done nothing to fix the problem, and has instead become the easy money grab that maintains the status quo which is to continue to avoid the hard conversations of actually getting our spending to correlate with our revenues.

I ask that when you are considering how to balance the budget moving forward, that you strongly consider the true consequences of you decision (taking the PFD has the largest negative economic impact on the Alaskan economy according to ISER). The taking of the dividend equates to the bottom 20% of income earners paying a tax in excess of 19%, and the top 20% of income earners paying a tax of less than 3%. We cannot continue to choose the most regressive budget balancing option and expect our economy to not erode and collapse.

Hard conversations/choices appear to be in direct competition with entities that have long been in control of our ballooning government (I believe our budget has increased upwards of 45% concurrently with an 14% population increase). Leadership and tough decisions (UA consolidation, school district consolidation/administration reductions, elimination of funded but not filled government jobs, audit of all designated/dedicated funds, etc...) are the salve that this state desperately needs in order to ensure its stability and sustainability moving forward.

These actions will not be easy, they will have short term negative consequences associated with them, but due to the inaction and "kicking the can down the road" mentality of our government of the last 10+ years, they are mandatory. Had we

addressed these issues back then, the pain and consequences could have been more gradual.

I beg you to take a serious look at these facts and come up with a genuine solution to our fiscal problem. I want my kids to have the option to call Alaska home when they are older, and I see that reality slipping away with every year that we waste by refusing to be adults about our dire fiscal situation.

Thank you very much for your consideration and thank you for representing the people of Alaska.

Nick Mazzolini
[REDACTED]

From: Will Turnage <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 1:10 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: State budget

To whom it may concern,

I am completely opposed to any taxes, sales, income, or other to fix our fiscal problems. The legislature has been negligent in not effectively reducing the budget to an operable level.

In short, the normal operating budget needs to be below expected income all the time. If it isn't, YOUR budget shortfall is not the taxpayers problem.

Sincerely,

Will Turnage
[REDACTED]
Wasilla, AK 99623
[REDACTED]

From: Leslie Herrmann <Leslie_Herrmann@ykhc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 5:27 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: VOCA shortfall

Hello:

I am a pediatrician at Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel. I have lived and worked here for almost nine years, and in my time I have seen the devastating effects of domestic violence against and sexual abuse of women and children. Our region has some of the highest rates of sexual abuse in the state and country. The problem is so widespread that at times it seems insurmountable. Despite that, I have seen glimmers of hope over the years. I have seen victims of terrible abuse rebuild their lives and slowly learn to trust again. I have seen victims of violence experience justice and find a little peace. I have seen children recover their health and their spirits and go on to thrive. Every person I've seen with a positive experience has had at least some interaction with the incredible multidisciplinary partnership forged between the Tundra Women's Coalition, law enforcement, the Children's Advocacy Center, and the YKHC medical team. Integral to this team is the patient advocate, who helps patients navigate a complicated, terrifying experience and coordinates the disparate goals of the many members of the team, from medical to judicial systems. Additionally, many women and children with absolutely no other options find safety and protection at the TWC shelter. This shelter saves lives.

I just learned that there are to be major cuts to the funding for TWC and the life-saving Victim Services provided there. I am terrified of the impact this will have on our community and the women and children who rely on these services for safety. I urge you to allocate any possible funds so that these vital services can continue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Leslie Herrmann MD
Pediatric Hospitalist
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation
P.O. Box 528 Bethel, AK 99559
www.ykhc.org

From: Jerry Seale <Jerry_Seale@ykhc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 12:43 AM
To: Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>
Cc: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Cuts to victim services

My name is Jerry M Seale RN. I am recent transplant to the YK Delta and have been working to join the Bethel SART as a newly trained sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) certified to care for adult and pediatric patients.

Thank you to Rep. Merrick and the DPS subcommittee for their work to fully fund victim services through the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Our community out here desperately needs this funding and more to help curb violent crimes against this population and manage the years of follow up care for the victims. These crimes happen with staggering regularity here and there simply are not enough resources to properly handle the volume of need. Unfortunately, we just learned that federal funding for life-saving advocacy and shelter services for victims and survivors is being cut by 34% starting in FY2022. This will have devastating impacts across Alaska. Crime victims should not be expected to bear the brunt of these cuts.

Alaska continues to have some of the highest rates of sexual and domestic violence, including violence against children. Now is not the time to cut lifesaving services to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

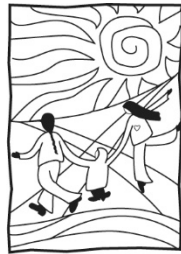
We are reaching out to you to let you know that this is happening now. Please help our community by finding a solution to this crisis before the end of session.

Please consider allocating state general funds to cover the gap created by the VOCA shortfall.

Respectfully,
Jerry M Seale RN

From: Marilla Handley <marilla_handley@twcpeace.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 4:55 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>
Subject: See Attached Letter

TUNDRA WOMEN'S COALITION
WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD A BRIGHTER FUTURE



April 06th, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Marilla Handley from Bethel Ak and I am a survivor of Domestic Violence. I am employed with the Tundra Women's Coalition as a Program Coordinator. In the past, Tundra Women's Coalition was able to help me with Legal Assistance, Housing, and most of all, the loving support TWC has shown through out the years with varias programs. I `d like to take this opportunity to let you know federal funding for life-saving advocacy and shelter services for victims and survivors is being cut by 34% starting in FY2022. On behalf of the domestic violence victims please consider allocating state general funds to cover the gap created by the VOCA short-fall.

From: Jo Woodward <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 1:44 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Senate Finance <Finance.Calendar@akleg.gov>; lwvtv.info@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Written testimony for FY22. This said email shall be my only written testimony to both the house and senate finance (HB69 & HB71).

Wednesday April 7, 2021

Greetings...House and Senate Finance AKleg: Being a member of the League of Women's Voters Tanana Valley (LWVTV) does keep me members

streamlined on Alaska governments current events. Comes now when I extend my emailed written testimony since there is a conflict in my participating online.

I agree with the dollar amount the house and senate allocates to be an efficient amount for the mental health issues. As long as none of the said dollar amount is wasted. For example substance abuse; the same person using the same facility for the same reasons repeatedly. Some people seem to find themselves in a situation where it is best to return to substance abuse to be rewarded a method or means of survival or easier survival. Perhaps the word is familiar survival. A system which they can identify, relate to and know the outcome. On those grounds respectively, I ask if there is anyway the substance abuse budget can be limited to being used for the same person for the same reason merely twice; three times maximum? We must go forward to advance vs spinning our wheels, per se.

Likewise for any other section within the FY22 budget where the above example would be applicable or a similar example could be derived repetitive.

Thank you. Ms. Jo Woodward

[REDACTED]

Fairbanks, AK 99775.3251

[REDACTED]

cc: house.finance@akleg.gov
senate.finance@akleg.gov **and**
League of Womens Voters Tanana Valley (LWVTV)

From: Rebecca Case Turner <caseloaded@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 1:40 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: FY22 Budget: Operating (HB 69) and Mental Health (HB 71)

REBECCA B TURNER,ED S

8376 E Stormy Hill Cir

Wasilla, Ak. 99654

907-841-5667

Caseloaded@gmail.com

4/7/2021

house.finance@akleg.gov

Committee Chair

Alaska House Finance Committee

Cc Senate.finance@akleg.gov

Dear Committeemen and Women:

I'm writing you today to consider increased funding for Alaska's people with mental health issues. As a retired assistant principal from the Anchorage School District, my duties for 13 years included supervision of the classes at the residential treatment facilities in Anchorage. The difference between the previous funding and the current funding is appalling. Student of any age were provided services for as long as necessary to meet the needs of those students. Now there is a three month limit to their treatment, which is at least careless and at most criminal. The safety and welfare of future Alaskan citizens is at stake. We used to have a good to excellent success rate for reentry into society, but now the recidivism is off the charts.

Please talk with the agencies to determine the time needed for successful reentry into society and the cost involved . Surely it's cheaper than housing them in the judicial system.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Turner

From: faith.myers@gci.net <faith.myers@gci.net>

Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 1:07 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Senate Finance <Finance.Calendar@akleg.gov>

Subject: testimony attached

House Finance Committee,
Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Faith J. Myers. My testimony on HB69 and HB 71 is attached.
929-0532

Testimony to House Finance Committee, 4/7/21
And Senate Finance Committee,
On FY22 Budget: Operating (HB69) and Mental Health (HB71),

House and Senate Finance Committee members,

My name is Faith J. Myers. I volunteer as a mental health advocate. Anyone who testifies or votes on a mental health care bill is at a disadvantage, because they lack the basic information necessary to make good decisions.

State law AS47.30.660 (b) (13) gives the Department of Health and Social Services the ability to delegate their responsibility of caring for disabled psychiatric patients to private psychiatric facilities. In 2015, the legislative legal office said there was a good

argument that the law was unconstitutional, because it was not accompanied by a sufficient state standard of care.

A second issue: the state does not have a clue how many disabled psychiatric patients are injured during treatment or transportation in private psychiatric facilities and the number and type of psychiatric patient complaints. The legislative legal office says the state cannot require that private facilities provide those statistics to the state until there are changes in law or regulations.

I do have the statistics for the Alaska Psychiatric Institute because it is a state facility. In 2017, there were 1,400 patients; 116 were injured, 90 needing medical care or hospitalization. There were 544 patient complaints. Not a single patient was able to bring their complaint to an impartial body within the facility which is their right by state law AS47.30.847.

A last point: Psychiatric patients have a right by state law to file a grievance, but nowhere in the law does it say when patients can file a grievance; and psychiatric facilities have taken full advantage of that loophole.

The House and the Senate should be adding patient rights onto HB71 and HB69 and a requirement that private facilities must supply basic statistics.

Mental Health Advocate, Faith J. Myers, 3240 Penland Pkwy, Sp. 35, Anchorage, AK. 99508 907-929-0532, Author of the book, "Going Crazy in Alaska, A History of Alaska's Treatment of Psychiatric Patients."

From: Brenda Loughman <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 11:51 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Public Testimony on Operating Budget HB 69

Dear Finance Committee Members,

1. Decrease the tax breaks given to oil companies
2. Limit the PFD to a consistent low, level. \$1200 has allowed our family to invest \$100/month towards our children's education fund. So far, three have left for education down south and have returned to work in the state; one to go.
3. Increase our local economies by supporting tourism and out of state workers by requiring vaccine passports and offering vaccinations at major airports.

Sincerely,

Brenda Loughman

Business Owner

Ketchikan, AK

From: Selena Hopkins-Kendall <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 11:06 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: public testimony in support of early education funding re: HB69

Dear Co-Chairs Rep. Merrick and Rep. Foster, and Committee members:

I write in support of funding for early childhood education programs in the operating budget. I serve on the Board of Best Beginnings, as well as on the Boards of the Anchorage Schools Foundation, and Thread's SEED Professional Development Committee. I am also the proud mom of two kids who have themselves benefitted from all the good things early childhood education provides, and I want all Alaska's kids to have those same opportunities.

Early childhood education is one of the best ways to ensure children are successful in school and far beyond. Many studies have shown that every dollar invested in early childhood education pays off in long term savings and economic growth. Children who receive early childhood education do better in school, have better literacy rates, lower dropout rates, lower crime rates, and are more ready to be part of Alaska's workforce and contribute to the long term growth of our state. Early childhood education and help to parents also helps whole families succeed by supporting parents as their kids' first teachers, help working parents support their families and contribute to their communities.

For these reasons and for the sake of Alaska's kids and families, I urge you to support continued funding for Best Beginnings and other early childhood programs including Head Start, Parents as Teachers, and Pre-K grants to school districts and early childhood education providers.

Thank you for your consideration,
Selena Hopkins-Kendall

From: Putt Clark <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 10:28 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Operating Budget

To the Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

It is absolutely commendable that the University of Alaska Finance Subcommittee was able to increase the University Budget by \$15.7 million.

The University of Alaska is an integral part of Alaska. A place where the youth of Alaska can acquire higher education, affordably, and can work towards self-improvement through some of the remedial courses offered for those needing a boost. It is also a place for students to come from out of state or abroad. The UA system offers various programs that have national and even international recognition.

Additionally, especially at UAF, where the campus is awarded millions of dollars through all of the various research grants it's awarded, the University is a dollar generator. UAA and UAS each have their own programs that provide programs not available elsewhere.

If the UA system continues to suffer cuts, we'll be cutting off our own oxygen, as a state. Please support this increase to the UA system.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Putt (Elizabeth) Clark
Fairbanks, Alaska

From: James Marrone <James_Marrone@ykhc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 10:15 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Proposed budget cut for TWC, Bethel

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is James Marrone and I am a Pediatrician at Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel. In the YK Delta, we have approximately twice the number of sexual abuse cases (both children and adults) compared to the Alaska State average, which itself is already 4 times higher than the "Lower 48..." average.

Here in Bethel we have worked very hard to build a multidisciplinary "SART" (sexual assault response team) that responds to each and every child or adult case. This team includes a Law Enforcement agency, either Bethel PD or the State Troopers, the medical forensic examiner *and an advocate from our local CAC or TWC*. I consider the advocate to be the glue that holds this team together while it helps patients/victims navigate our complicated medical, law enforcement and judicial systems.

Recently we learned that federal funding for such life-saving advocacy and shelter services for victims and survivors is being cut. This will likely have devastating impacts in our region.

For your information, these advocates are with our patients before the team comes together, throughout the forensic interview/exam to gather DNA/photographic evidence, and then the advocate remains available to the survivor for as long they need or want afterward. These advocates become a trusted ally and "go-to" person for the survivor to answer questions about their case, to sit with them during glass warrants, to help them with protective orders, to secure shelter at TWC, to help them relocate, to connect them with local resources, to get them in to see a Behavioral Health professional if needed, and countless other services.

In summary if the funding for Victims Services in our region is cut, that will devastate our high-risk community members who desperately need these services as it undermines the foundation that our multidisciplinary team is built on and continues to rely heavily on. I respectfully urge you to consider allocating state general funds to cover the gap created by the VOCA shortfall as over my 4+ years working here I have seen on an almost daily basis how invaluable the services of our TWC and CAC are to the YK Delta survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Child Sexual Assault/Abuse and Child Abuse.

Sincerely,

James R. Marrone, MD

Pediatrician

Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

Clinical Services

Post Office Box 287, Bethel, AK 99559

www.ykhc.org

From: David Alderson <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 9:37 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Amhs

We need a highway, so we as well as visitors can come and go. With out cruises many will miss the awesome scenery here we take for granted.

David Alderson

Ketchikan

From: Esther Smith <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 9:35 AM

To: Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kelly Merrick

<Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>

Cc: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fund Cuts

Dear Rep. Merrick and Rep. Foster,

My name is Esther Smith and I am an engaged voter and life-long Alaska residing in Fairview, Anchorage. I am currently a Prevention Specialist with the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (ANDVSA), but I am speaking only on behalf of myself in this letter. I have more than five years of experience working in the domestic and sexual violence prevention and advocacy field in Alaska and I am a survivor myself. I am writing in response to recent news of funding cuts to victim services programs in Alaska.

On April 1, community-based victim services agencies received a memo from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) stating that the State of Alaska's FFY2021 VOCA funds would be reduced by \$4.1 million. This means that all victims services should expect a 30% cut in their grants starting in FY2022.

This is tremendously devastating news. Alaska continues to lead the nation with some of the highest rates of sexual and domestic violence, including violence against children. Victim services agencies are on the front-lines of protecting our communities, advocating for survivors, and addressing the root causes of violence and preventing harm from continuing. This work is already profoundly challenging enough. Now is not the time to cut life-saving services to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Please help our communities by finding a solution to this crisis before the end of session. I urge you to consider allocating state general funds to cover the gap created by the VOCA shortfall.

Thank you for your commitment to addressing and preventing violence in Alaska.

Sincerely,
Esther Smith

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK
99501

From: Kate Govaars <kate@ilktn.org>

Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 3:07 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Funding support for early literacy

Dear Finance Committee -

I am writing to encourage continued financial support for early literacy programs. Studies report that one of the best ways to prepare children for kindergarten is through reading to them daily. Programs like Best Beginnings and Imagination Library provide books and resources to families across Alaska to encourage reading to young children. It is nearly immeasurable the long-term value of adequately preparing children for kindergarten.

When I had my child, Best Beginnings provided us with books that have quickly become my child's favorites. In that process, I recognized that Ketchikan did not have access to an Imagination Library where we would continue to receive books. Through support from Best Beginnings, I was able to start an Imagination Library in Ketchikan, which now delivers quality and age-appropriate books to Ketchikan children's mailboxes monthly.

These programs are well-researched in their benefits to the community. Children do better in school when they are adequately prepared; and when they do better, they are more likely to graduate high school. Please consider continued funding of programs like Best Beginnings and Imagination Library.

Sincerely,
Kate Govaars
Founder, Imagination Library of Ketchikan



Kate Govaars
Imagination Library of Ketchikan
Ph: 907-617-1053
kate@ilktn.org | www.ilktn.org



From: peter zuyus <seniorsofalaska@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 7:00 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 69

Dear Co-chairs Neal Foster and Kelly Merrick and committee members,

The proposed budget contains several items that have a serious on the well-being of Alaska's Senior population. We ask that you reconsider some of the items and vote to support the Alaska Senior citizens.

Seniors of Alaska asks that you consider the following budget items and our recommendation:

The House Finance sub-Committee, unanimously voted to reject the proposal to close rural DMV's offices by DoA. We ask that you concur with their finding **and restore the DMV funds.**

Civil Legal Services Fund: The reduction of \$450,000 to the fund that protects Seniors and vulnerable Alaskan's is a disgrace and a direct attack on our Senior population.

Seniors of Alaska, Inc. asks that you **Restore the \$450,000 and fund Civil Legal Services fully.**

Reduction to Public Field Services is another veiled attack on Seniors and vulnerable Alaskans. **Please restore the funding to Public Field Services** and support our Senior and vulnerable Alaska citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter T. Zuyus
Executive Director
Seniors of Alaska, inc.

From: Samantha Mosholder <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 4:50 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: AWAIC FUNDING RESPONSE

Dear Co-Chairs Foster and Merrick and all members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to you about a cut to a federal funding stream that has a dire consequence for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) receives federal funding from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). Victim service agencies were just informed that they would be facing 30% cuts because of cuts to VOCA which will slash funding for core services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

I support Abused Women's Aid In Crisis (AWAIC) in Anchorage. AWAIC is the only emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence in our community. Due to COVID they have already had to reduce services to victims in the community. This cut will drastically reduce the funding they receive to maintain basic services for those they serve who are among the most vulnerable in our community.

I am asking that the legislature use general funds to make up for the loss of this federal funding. It is critical that we maintain our services for the safety of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. AWAIC is a critical organization that not only provides safety, advocacy, and shelter, but it's also saving lives. Alaska ranks first in the nation when it comes to homicides from domestic violence. Please, I ask you to continue supporting AWAIC.

Sincerely,

Samantha Mosholder. a concerned tax paying citizen.

[REDACTED]

From: Jerome Troshynski <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 9:08 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public Health Nursing budget

I'm writing to express my wholehearted support for increasing the state PHN budget. I retired from PHN as a regional manager in the summer of 2019 (before this pandemic), and saw first hand the impact that cuts since 2014 had on communities. Six communities lost their full time PHNs, and although PHN through itinerant services gamely tried to plug those holes, services were lost. You are being informed of the impacts to our immunization rates (decreased), our STD and TB rates (increased), unplanned pregnancy rates (increased) and most urgently, PHN's ability to respond to public health emergencies. Something you may not fully understand, but that I was painfully aware of as a hiring manager was the difficulty of recruiting qualified RNs under an environment where nurses have so many options and everyone is scrambling to recruit qualified and quality nurses. Why work for state PHN when you aren't sure if you'll have a job within a year? I personally had to lay off several nurses and other staff from 2014 - 2019. And then I had to work with vacancy rates upwards of 20%. There was always some thought from some of our uninformed state leaders that para-professionals or tribal health entities or non profit community health centers could do the work that PHNs do. That has proven time and time again to be short sighted and misinformed for so many reasons I'd be happy to discuss with anyone interested in listening. Suffice it to say that recruiting can be a cinch if your standards are low enough. And, some of you may not be aware that in 2011 one of our Tribal Health partners, Norton Sound, decided after 25 years of receiving a PHN grant to provide services in their region that they no longer wished to do so. The reason they gave was unreliable state funding and support. Since public health is at its root a state responsibility (Article 7 Section 4 of the state constitution) the state had no choice but to assume PHN responsibility in that area. At a cost of an additional \$1 million. Any "partner" can decide to resolve the partnership, and when they do that responsibility returns to the State. At a higher cost than what was paid via grant money to the

"partner". So, you have an opportunity to return a bit of lost funding. Actually, given what we've all experienced in this past year no one should question the need for a strong PHN system. It'd be great to return funding to the levels prior to 2014, but at least to support this long-needed budget increase. PHN has earned it and your communities deserve to have the best PHN infrastructure we can afford. Thanks for your consideration. Happy to answer questions.

Jerry Troshynski, RN, BSN, MPA
Retired -PHN regional nurse manager
[REDACTED]

From: Kathleen Menke <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 6:12 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: budget input

To House Finance:

I live in Haines. We are not allowed to drive out of town on our only road, because it goes through Canada. The ferries must be funded.

The surcharge for ferry travel for ferries booked over 30% capacity must be abandoned.

Budget \$16 million to repair the Malaspina. A new comparable ferry would cost well over \$100 million. Put the perfectly good Columbia back online.

The road north of Juneau and a terminal at Cascade Point are frivolous expenditures.

Alaskans need affordable, regular, reliable ferry service to access major airports and health care and veterinary care, to visit our families down south, and for them to visit us.

I have a big dog I can't put on a plane. I need vehicle access to points south via AMHS.

I have a small business that depends on tourism. Supporting the AMHS will boost economies across the state. Put more support into ferries and less into mega-cruise-ships.

Also no funds for AIDEA for infra-structure for timber/ore terminal in Haines. AIDEA must be responsive to communities.

Institute a State Income Tax 5% of Federal taxes. Everyone in Alaska needs to support necessary public services.

No more money for Dunleavy's frivolous lawsuits.

Regards, Kathleen Menke

From: Bryanna Kerbuski <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 4:55 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Funding Victim Services

Hello,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today. My name is Bryanna Kerbuski and I am representing myself today.

Thank you to Rep. Merrick and the DPS subcommittee for their work to fully fund victim services through the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Unfortunately, we just learned that federal funding for life-saving advocacy and shelter services for victims and survivors is being cut by 34% starting in FY2022. This will have devastating impacts across Alaska. Crime victims should not be expected to bear the brunt of these cuts.

We are reaching out to you to let you know that this is happening now. I volunteer with Choosing Our Roots and see firsthand the importance these life-saving supports offered to victims. Please help us in community by finding a solution to this crisis before the end of session. Consider allocating state general funds to cover the gap created by the VOCA

shortfall. Alaska continues to have some of the highest rates of sexual and domestic violence, including violence against children. Now is not the time to cut lifesaving services to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

--

Bryanna 'Bri' Kerbuski
(She/They)
University of Southern California MSW - 2021
Northeastern University Graduate Programs - 2019
Virginia Tech - 2016
C [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Natasha Patterson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 4:53 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: AWAIC Needs Support

Dear Co-Chairs Foster and Merrick and all members of the House Finance Committee,

The federal funding cut for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) is going to devastate Anchorage's vulnerable. The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) receives funding through VOCA. Victim service agencies were recently informed that they would be facing 30% cuts because of cuts to VOCA which will slash funding for core services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

I support Abused Women's Aid In Crisis (AWAIC) in Anchorage. AWAIC is the only emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence in our community. They take in women, men, and children and save lives. Due to COVID they have already had to reduce services to victims in the community. This cut will drastically reduce the funding they receive to maintain basic services for those they serve who are among the most vulnerable in our community.

I am asking that the legislature use general funds to make up for the loss of this federal funding. It is critical that we maintain our services for the safety of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Our children deserve safety. Anchorage's vulnerable deserve safety.

Sincerely,

Natasha Patterson

From: Santa Claus <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 4:33 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Cc: jharrier@threadalaska.org; tstorrs@alaskachildrenstrust.org;
abohman@newsminer.com

Subject: TESTIMONY: ALSAKA FY22 OPERATING BUDGET - HB69

TESTIMONY

DATE: April 7, 2021

TO: The Alaska House Finance Committee (House.Finance@AKLeg.Gov)

FROM: Santa Claus, North Pole, Alaska (SantaClaus@USA.net)

RE: 2022 Operating Budget - House Bill 69

Dear Alaska House Finance Committee Members:

Regarding HB69, I'm writing as a long-term volunteer child advocate and former educator. As an elected official, myself, I appreciate your interest in and support of education.

Although children comprise 25% of Alaska's population, they represent 100% of our state's future. The only collective voice they have in their future and our political arena is presented by organizations, including the Alaska Children's Trust, Thread, and others, who advocate for them and strive to guard their experience, oversee their growth, and improve their future.

HB69 is a comprehensive Bill that addresses early education, eligibility, parent involvement, DOE duties, teacher certification, proactive young reader intervention, and teacher retention.

In particular, those areas include funding for expanded pre-K opportunities for children throughout our state and a reading intervention program for children in kindergarten through third grade.

It is worth noting that investments in early childhood education stimulate substantial tangible returns throughout each child's lifetime; funding increases access to high-quality early education programs and better prepares our youngsters to start school; and, early education support paves the way for students to succeed in school.

In my opinion, approving and funding HB69 would help improve Alaska's extraordinarily poor ranking in education. U.S. News and World Report notes that Alaska nationally ranks #47 in pre-K to 12th grade, #36 in higher education, and #44 overall. (<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/alaska>)

I'm certain Alaska can do better and recognize the responsibility and ability your Committee has to ensure that our children benefit from a better education. Ultimately, that will enable our State to prosper.

I urge you to vote YES on HB69!

Thank you for your consideration, Santa

Santa Claus

[REDACTED]

North Pole, AK 99705

From: juliette vries <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 3:26 PM
To: Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>
Cc: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget cut off CDVSA

Dear Representative Kelly Merrick, Co-Chair, Alaska House Finance Committee:

My name is Juliette Vries and I serve on the Board of Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence here in Unalaska.

I would like to thank Governor Dunleavy for recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, for recognizing the need for more prosecuting attorneys in the Department of Law's budget to respond to sexual assault backlog cases, and for his call to all Alaskans to "make Alaska the safest state in the country, especially for...women and children." We are grateful to Representative Merrick and the DPS subcommittee for all their hard work to fully fund victim services through the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Unfortunately, we have only recently learned that federal funding for life-saving advocacy and shelter services for victims and survivors is being cut. This will have devastating impacts across our beautiful state.

On April 1, community-based victim services agencies including USAFV received a memo from CDVSA stating that the State of Alaska's FFY2021 VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) funds would be reduced by \$4.1 million and that all victim services should expect a 30% cut in their grants starting in FY2022. Crime victims should not be expected to bear the brunt of these cuts.

USAFV provides critical services in our community. If we lose 30% of our funding, here are some of the choices we will be forced to make:

We will have to strictly limit the amount of time we can allow women and children to stay in the shelter because of decreased funding for shelter staff. This is unrealistic, considering how difficult it is to secure safe, affordable housing in one of the most expensive communities, and tightest housing markets, in the state;

We will have to cut the amount budgeted for emergency travel for victims by more than half, also unrealistic considering how expensive it is for a victim to get out of Unalaska if she has no safe options here;

We will have to cut back our part-time outreach position by nearly half, which will severely curtail our efforts to prevent future violence through outreach and education;
We will have to eliminate nearly all funding for staff training.

The services provided by USAFV are vital to the health and well-being of Unalaska. We are reaching out to ask that you address this crisis before the end of the legislative session, and consider allocating state general funds to cover the gap created by the VOCA shortfall.

Alaska continues to have some of the highest rates of sexual and domestic violence, including violence against children. Now is not the time to cut lifesaving services to victims and survivors of these crimes. Please help us to continue to offer safe shelter, advocacy, and other services to those who need them.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Juliette Vries
Vice Chair
Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence

Cc: Alaska House Finance Committee Members

From: R Charlene Saunders <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 3:03 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Nicole Songer <cfr@ctcak.net>

Subject: Cordova Family Resource Center Testimony re impending VOCA budget cuts...

I understand that testimony will be given Friday between 1:30 and 3:30pm regarding probable VOCA budget cuts...please accept this email attachment as my request for your assistance in this regard.

Thank you...

As Treasurer of the Board of Directors of our local Cordova Family Resource Center, I appreciate this opportunity to testify regarding the recent VOCA budget cuts.

I do appreciate Governor Dunleavy's recognition of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, for recognizing the need for more prosecuting attorneys in the Department of Law's budget, to respond to sexual assault backlog cases, and his call to all of us to "make Alaska the safest state in the country, especially for our most vulnerable, our women and children."

Thank you to Rep. Merrick and the DPS subcommittee for their work to fully fund victim services through the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Unfortunately, we just learned that federal funding for life-saving advocacy and shelter services for victims and survivors is being cut. This will have a devastating impact across Alaska and in our own community of Cordova.

On April 1 community-based victim services agencies received a memo from CDVSA stating that the State of Alaska's FY2021 VOCA (victims of crime act) funds would be reduced by \$4.1 million and that all victim services should expect a 30% cut in their grants starting in FY2022. Crime victims should not be expected to bear the brunt of these cuts...they have been victimized already...please, not again...

Our agency provides critical services in our community. If we lose 30-34% of our funding in this area, we will be forced to cut services and support staff to our most vulnerable community members.

Alaska continues to have some of the highest rates of sexual and domestic violence, most commonly against women and children. As a State and a Community, we cannot afford to lose services to those affected.

I am asking that you consider allocating state general funds to cover the gap created by the VOCA shortfall.

Please help us in Cordova by finding a funding solution to this crisis before the end of this session.

Thank you!

Charlene Saunders

From: Sarah Hanson Hofstetter <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 9:18 AM

To: Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Cuts to Victim Services

My name is Sarah C Hanson Hofstetter and I recently joined WAVE as a board member, which stands for Working Against Violence for Everyone, and is based in Petersburg. I previously lived in Nome where issues of domestic violence and sexual assault are also at serious level of crisis.

WAVE provides critical services in Petersburg. On April 1, ALL community-based victim service agencies received a memo from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault stating that the State of Alaska's FY2021 Victim of Crimes Act funds would be reduced by 4.1 million and that ALL victim services should expect a 30% cut in their grants starting in fiscal year 2022. If WAVE and other agencies in Alaska lose 30%

funding, the cuts will have devastating impacts on survivors, victims, their families, and our community work.

I am reaching out to you to let you know that this is happening now. Please help us with our Petersburg agency and other agencies in Alaska who help victims and family affected by violence and sexual assault. You can help us by being aware of this cause and the detriment in Alaska. You can help us by finding a solution to this crisis before the end of the session. Please consider allocating state general funds to cover the gap created by the VOCA shortfall.

Alaska continues to have some of the highest rates of sexual and domestic violence, including violence against children. Now is NOT the time to cut lifesaving service to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Thank you for reading this! Thank you for hearing me.

Sarah C Hanson Hofstetter

WAVE Board Member

Life long Alaskan, Mother, Artist and Business Owner

[REDACTED]

Petersburg, Ak

99833

[REDACTED]

From: Karin Siebenmorgen <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 9:31 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Nicole Songer <cfrc@ctcak.net>

Subject: VOCA

Please see attached.

April 7, 2021

To Representative Neal Foster, Representative Kelly Merrick, Representative Louis Stutes and the House Finance Committee:

My name is Karin Siebenmorgen and I am a volunteer Board Member for Cordova Family Resource Center.

I am alarmed about the memo from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) stating that the State of Alaska's FFY 2021 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds would be reduced by \$4.1 million and all victim services should expect a 30% in their grants for FY2022. To our agency specifically it would mean a 33% cut.

I have previously worked as a women's advocate at a domestic violence shelter and currently work as a Registered Nurse in my community. I recognize that a cut of this nature would severely impact a victim's access to support after a sexual or physical assault, legal support for court services, emergency shelter nights, and advocacy phone support services. A reduction in staff from these cuts means these services will be greatly reduced and would hurt the most vulnerable members of our community.

A significant decrease to funding at a time when communities across Alaska are seeing an increase in need for critical services will be devastating. Alaska communities have some of the highest rates of sexual and domestic violence.

I ask that you please consider allocating state general funds to cover the gap created by the VOCA shortfall before the end of this legislative session in order to prioritize vulnerable families in our communities.

Sincerely,

Karin Siebenmorgen, BSN, RN

From: Jessika Mathe <jessika@nwstrat.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 12:01 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: AWAIC Funding

To Whom it May Concern,

This email is to express my support for AWAIC and the countless individuals they continue to serve in our local community. As you may know, AWAIC and other victim services agencies are largely funded by the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, which was recently notified of an impending reduction in federal allocation for Alaska. AWAIC is the **only** emergency shelter in Anchorage specifically for people fleeing domestic violence. These cuts are unacceptable and would undoubtedly negatively impact survivors by gravely reducing funding and access to necessary and vital support services.

These cuts, with less than a 90-day notice, would have a tragic impact on survivors of domestic and sexual assault in Alaska, possibly resulting in cuts to imperative staff and a reduction in

beds available for victims with high lethality (the likelihood that an abuser will attempt/commit murder). We cannot let this happen to our community and the individuals that depend on these supports for their safety and lives.

I urge you to take into account the effect that these cuts would have and request that funding be prioritized for AWAIC and alike agencies that tirelessly serve survivors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Jessika Mathe

--



Jessika Mathe (she/her) | director of finance and hr
jessika@nwstrat.com | p (907)-308-1342 | nwstrat.com
northwest strategies | 441 w. 5th ave., suite 500, anchorage, AK 99501

Alaska Native and woman-owned



Dena'inaq elnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. (Dena'ina)
I live and work on Dena'ina land. (English)

From: Tiffany Tutiakoff <tiffany@nwstrat.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 11:56 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Erin Messmer <erin@nwstrat.com>
Subject: Email of Support for Funding for CDVSA

To Whom it May Concern:

This email is to express my support for AWAIC and the countless individuals they continue to serve in our local community. As you may know, AWAIC and other victim services agencies are largely funded by the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, which was recently notified of an impending reduction in federal allocation for Alaska. AWAIC is the **only** emergency shelter in Anchorage specifically for people fleeing domestic violence. These cuts are unacceptable and would undoubtedly negatively impact survivors by gravely reducing funding and access to necessary and vital support services.

These cuts, with less than a 90-day notice, would have a tragic impact on survivors of domestic and sexual assault in Alaska, possibly resulting in cuts to imperative staff and a reduction in beds available for victims with high lethality (the likelihood that an abuser will attempt/commit murder). We cannot let this happen to our community and the individuals that depend on these supports for their safety and lives.

I urge you to take into account the effect that these cuts would have and request that funding be prioritized for AWAIC and alike agencies that tirelessly serve survivors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Tiffany Tutiakoff



tiffany tutiakoff (she/her) | ceo and owner
tiffany@nwstrat.com | p (907) 563-4881 | c (907) 529-6033 | nwstrat.com
northwest strategies | 441 w. 5th ave., suite 500, anchorage, AK 99501

Alaska Native and woman-owned



Dena'inaq elnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. (Dena'ina)
I live and work on Dena'ina land. (English)

From: Alexa Filanowicz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 11:54 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: AWAIC Funding

To the Alaska House Finance Committee:

I am writing to you today to provide my support for AWAIC and the vast array of services that the agency provides to those in Alaska experiencing domestic and interpersonal violence. AWAIC fills a critical gap through programs offering emergency shelter to individuals and their children, transitional housing, a crisis line, mental health services, case management, and legal assistance. Alaska's issues with domestic violence and interpersonal violence are widely researched and documented, and implementing funding cuts of \$540,000 to AWAIC will only continue to harm the health and well-being of Alaskans, including its children.

Domestic violence and interpersonal violence are too often fatal, and this is even acknowledged at the state level. If Alaska is truly committed to addressing domestic violence and reducing fatalities as per the recent development of the Alaska Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (Alaska Department of Public Safety, 2021), then I urge you to fully fund AWAIC and its crucial programs.

Thank you,

Alexa Filanowicz
Anchorage, AK
[REDACTED]

Reference:

Alaska Department of Public Safety. (2021). *Press releases: Alaska Stands Up Domestic Violence Fatality Review*

Team. <https://dps.alaska.gov/AST/PIO/PressReleases/Alaska-Stands-Up-Domestic-Violence-Fatality-Review>

From: Andres Antuna <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 11:51 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for AWAIC funding

Hello,

I am writing to express my opposition to funding reductions for AWAIC in light of the major reductions from the Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault. The 30% - 33% cuts for FY'22 that would be passed down to victim service agencies would devastate the services provided and the people who rely on them.

AWAIC is the only emergency shelter in Anchorage specifically for people fleeing domestic violence, a problem currently on the rise in Anchorage and across the country. Having a bed and capable staff to help survivors of domestic violence makes a real difference not just in their lives, but the communities they live in; I urge you not to cut funding for AWAIC when its services are needed most.

Sincerely,

Andres Antuna

From: Rebecca Sparks <rebecca@nwstrat.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 11:47 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: suzi_p@awaic.org
Subject: AWAIC Funding

To Whom it May Concern,

*This email is to express my support for AWAIC and the countless individuals they continue to serve in our local community. As you may know, AWAIC and other victim services agencies are largely funded by the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, which was recently notified of an impending reduction in federal allocation for Alaska. AWAIC is the **only** emergency shelter in Anchorage specifically for people fleeing domestic violence. These cuts are unacceptable and would undoubtedly negatively impact survivors by gravely reducing funding and access to necessary and vital support services.*

These cuts, with less than a 90-day notice, would have a tragic impact on survivors of domestic and sexual assault in Alaska, possibly resulting in cuts to imperative staff and a reduction in beds available for victims with high lethality (the likelihood that an abuser will attempt/commit murder). We cannot let this happen to our community and the individuals that depend on these supports for their safety and lives.

I urge you to take into account the effect that these cuts would have and request that funding be prioritized for AWAIC and alike agencies that tirelessly serve survivors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully, Rebecca Sparks

--



rebecca kunugguk sparks (she/her) | account executive
rebecca@nwstrat.com | p (907) 563-4881 | nwstrat.com
northwest strategies | 441 w. 5th ave., suite 500, anchorage, AK 99501

Alaska Native and woman-owned



Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 11:40 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: support for AWAIC and agencies that serve survivors

Please continue to fund AWAIC and other agencies that serve survivors of domestic abuse to the highest level possible. Alaska already has one of the highest rates of domestic abuse in the country and we need to be providing more support, not less, to the victims.

Thank you.
Irene Bortnick

From: Roger Branson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 11:29 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Suzi Pearson <suzi_p@awaic.org>
Subject: DV Shelter funding

As an advocate for the homeless with co-occurring Behavioral Health challenges talk of cutting DV shelter to those with lived experience (which manifests first as a threat) is alarming and enough to trigger an unknown number of them. Please secure our funding and help us step through this present reality.

Roger Branson

From: Erin Messmer <erin@nwstrat.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 11:25 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: suzi_p@awaic.org
Subject: Ensure Funding for AWAIC

To Whom it May Concern,

This email is to express my support for AWAIC and the countless individuals they continue to serve in our local community. As you may know, AWAIC and other victim services agencies are largely funded by the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, which was recently notified of an impending reduction in federal allocation for Alaska. AWAIC is the only emergency shelter in Anchorage specifically for people fleeing domestic violence. These cuts are unacceptable and would undoubtedly negatively impact survivors by gravely reducing funding and access to necessary and vital support services.

These cuts, with less than a 90-day notice, would have a tragic impact on survivors of domestic and sexual assault in Alaska, possibly resulting in cuts to imperative staff and a reduction in beds available for victims with high lethality (the likelihood that an abuser will attempt/commit murder). We cannot let this happen to our community and the individuals that depend on these supports for their safety and lives.

I urge you to take into account the effect that these cuts would have and request that funding be prioritized for AWAIC and alike agencies that tirelessly serve survivors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully, Erin Messmer

--



erin messmer (she/her) | account executive
erin@nwstrat.com | p (907) 563-4881 | c (949) 873-3278 | nwstrat.com
northwest strategies | 441 w. 5th ave., suite 500, anchorage, AK 99501
Dena'inaq elnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. (Dena'ina)
I live and work on Dena'ina land. (English)

Alaska Native and woman-owned



From: Sharon - Brad Hunter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 11:20 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: funding for victim services in Alaska

HB69 HB71

April 8, 2021

Dear Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee,

It with a great deal of concern that I learned of the looming cuts to aid for victims of violence and abuse looming on the horizon as the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) states that the State of Alaska's Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds would be reduced by \$4.1 million and that all victim services should expect a 30% cut in their grants starting in FY2022.

As the unfortunate leader of all states in the rates of harm to women and children Alaska can ill afford to have this happen at any time and particularly with the stress added by the last year dealing with the pandemic.

I urge you to do all you can to avert the dramatic loss of care for vulnerable populations and request the use of funds through the American Rescue Plan Act funds to offset the VOCA funding reductions.

As a society and state, we will either pay now by doing all we can to avert or ameliorate the damage of violence or later by trying to fix the problems already caused.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this urgent request.

Sincerely,
Sharon M Hunter

From: Laura Herman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 11:20 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Restore funding for Domestic Violence response

Dear members of the House Finance Committee,

I write today with extreme concern for the recent announcement from CDVSA that they would be cutting funding 30-33% for on the ground providers. In recent years we have only become more aware of how gravely we are failing Alaskan women and other victims of domestic violence. Plus, the pandemic has isolated people who perpetuate harm and the people harmed together - meaning that the need has only increased and gotten more severe, not in any way lessened.

I urge you to stand with Alaskans who are harmed by interpersonal violence and make sure the resources they can turn to in their time of need are robust.

Laura Herman
Lifelong resident of Alaska
HD20

From: Annie Murray <amurray@aceh.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 11:16 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: DV Funding

Good Morning,
I wanted to write in support of funding for AWAIC and other programs in Alaska that serve individuals who have experienced domestic violence. I have witnessed how important and life saving the services AWAIC provide for many of our clients and hope that they can be provided with adequate funding to continue this important work.

Thank you so much!

Annie Murray (she/her/hers)
Coordinated Entry Manager
Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness
907 310 1859 | www.aceh.org

From: Deanna Selman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 10:53 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: draft letter to legislators re VOCA.docx

Dear Co-Chairs Foster and Merrick and all members of the House Finance Committee,
I am writing to you about a cut to a federal funding stream that has a dire consequence for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) receives federal funding from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). Victim service agencies were just informed that they would be facing 30% cuts because of cuts to VOCA which will slash funding for core services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

I support Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC) in Anchorage. AWAIC is the only emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence in our community. Due to COVID they have already had to reduce services to victims in the community. This cut will drastically reduce the funding they receive to maintain basic services for those they serve who are among the most vulnerable in our community.

I am asking that the legislature use general funds to make up for the loss of this federal funding. It is critical that we maintain our services for the safety of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. I have worked at AWAIC for many years, and I cannot stress how much we need this agency to continue helping these families in need and keep them safe. With out the fund to help keep AWAIC going their

will be many Women and Men in danger and nowhere to go if we do not have the staff or the capacity to bring people in to shelter.

Sincerely,
DeAnna Selman

From: Jenny Vanderbilt <jenny@nwstrat.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 12:27 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: AWAIC Funding

To Whom it May Concern,

This email is to express my support for AWAIC and the countless individuals they continue to serve in our local community. As you may know, AWAIC and other victim services agencies are largely funded by the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, which was recently notified of an impending reduction in federal allocation for Alaska. AWAIC is the **only** emergency shelter in Anchorage specifically for people fleeing domestic violence. These cuts are unacceptable and would undoubtedly negatively impact survivors by gravely reducing funding and access to necessary and vital support services.

These cuts, with less than a 90-day notice, would have a tragic impact on survivors of domestic and sexual assault in Alaska, possibly resulting in cuts to imperative staff and a reduction in beds available for victims with high lethality (the likelihood that an abuser will attempt/commit murder). We cannot let this happen to our community and the individuals that depend on these supports for their safety and lives.

I urge you to take into account the effect that these cuts would have and request that funding be prioritized for AWAIC and alike agencies that tirelessly serve survivors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Jenny Vanderbilt

--



jenny vanderbilt (she/her) | digital manager
jenny@nwstrat.com | p (907)-563-4881 | nwstrat.com
northwest strategies | 441 w. 5th ave., suite 500, anchorage, AK 99501

Alaska Native and woman-owned



Dena'inaq elnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. (Dena'ina)
I live and work on Dena'ina land. (English)

From: Teri Forst <teri@anchorcandc.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 12:36 PM

To: Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: NO Funding Cuts to Victim Services

Hello,

I am a therapist who provides mental health and substance use assessment services to the Tundra Women's Coalition (TWC) in Bethel, AK. I was also born and raised in Bethel, and throughout my life and career have seen first hand the positive impact that TWC has had on our community and the life saving, crucial services that they provide to victims in the region. TWC is not just a shelter for "battered women" as many people think. They provide safe shelter for women and children who would otherwise have to be homeless, or remain in dangerous and violent settings. They provide advocacy, and assessment to get into treatment for those suffering from addiction, among many other vital services. And they do all of it with care and compassion despite the vicarious trauma, the long work hours, the revolving door, and the already limited resources.

I am writing in strong opposition to cutting funding for victim services. These services are crucial in protecting victims, and children. Without these resources, victim services will not be able to provide intervention and shelter, thus increasing the chances of the cycle of violence and trauma continuing in our next generations. Alaska has some of the highest rates of violence and substance abuse, which victims services work to prevent.

Victims should not have to pay the price for the state's funding issues. They are the ones who need it the most, if the victims don't have these services available, the state will end up paying in other ways as the violence will continue, and become even more severe thus increasing costs in: courts, legal, public safety, healthcare, and the morgue.

Please advocate to not cut funding to Victim Services, and thank you for all that you have done thus far.

--

Teri Forst, LPC-S, MAC, NCC
Anchor Counseling & Consulting, LLC
PO BOX 32561
Juneau, AK 99803
907-545-5483

From: ellamy@kwrcc.org <ellamy@kwrcc.org>

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 1:32 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Cuts to Victim Services

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Emily Tiller and I live in Kodiak.

First, I appreciate Governor Dunleavy's recognition of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, for recognizing the need for more prosecuting attorneys in the Department of Law's budget, to respond to

sexual assault backlog cases, and his call to all of us to “make Alaska the safest state in the country, especially for our most vulnerable, our women and children.”

Thank you to Rep. Merrick and the DPS subcommittee for their work to fully fund victim services through the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Unfortunately, we just learned that federal funding for life-saving advocacy and shelter services for victims and survivors is being cut. This will have devastating impacts across Alaska.

On April 1 community-based victim services agencies received a memo from CDVSA stating that the State of Alaska’s FFY2021 VOCA (victims of crime act) funds would be reduced by \$4.1 million and that all victim services should expect a 30% cut in their grants starting in FY2022. Crime victims should not be expected to bear the brunt of these cuts.

These cuts will have a devastating impact on survivors, victims, their families, our community work.

I am reaching out to you to let you know that this is happening now. I work at the Kodiak Women’s Resource and Crisis Center and see firsthand the importance these life-saving supports offer to victims. Please help us in Kodiak by finding a solution to this crisis before the end of session.

Consider allocating state general funds to cover the gap created by the VOCA shortfall.

Alaska continues to have some of the highest rates of sexual and domestic violence, including violence against children. Now is not the time to cut lifesaving services to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Emily Tiller
Outreach Advocate
Kodiak Women’s Resource and Crisis Center
422 Hillside Drive
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
(907)486-6171
ellamy@kwrcc.org
www.kwrcc.org



From: Amber Chung <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 1:39 PM
To: Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>
Cc: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public Testimony - Cuts to Victims Services

Good afternoon,

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I am writing as a member of the Bethel Community and a strong supporter of the Tundra Women's Coalition to request that your committee consider allocating state general funds to cover the shortfall that is being created by the cut in Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding.

As you are likely aware, we just learned that federal funding through VOCA will be reduced by 34% for the next two years. The victim service providers across our state cannot be expected to bear the brunt of these cuts, as this will have severe and life threatening consequences for the victims being served.

As a former shelter manager for the Tundra Women's Coalition and current Forensic Interviewer at the Children's Advocacy Center, I have seen firsthand the dire need for victims' services throughout the state. We are already struggling to keep up with the ever increasing demand for services and this significant cut to funding is going to exacerbate this problem.

Please, for the sake of the victims across our state, consider allocating general funds to help us offset these costs and continue to provide life-saving services for our people.

Thank you,
Amber Chung
[REDACTED]
Bethel, Alaska
[REDACTED]

From: Bill Tremblay <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 1:35 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: brtrembla@gmail.com
Subject: Public Broadcasting Needs to be Funded

Dear House Finance Committee;

I'm hoping you will continue to support funding for public broadcasting in Alaska. It's been disappointing to see the Legislator continue funding for the past few years only to have the Governor veto these funds. Your continued support helps to emphasize public broadcasting as integral to a public service providing important information to communities throughout Alaska; especially in critical times like emergencies.

I couldn't be more proud of the work done by my local public radio station (KFSK; Petersburg during this last year with regards to the information shared about the Covid-19 pandemic. Let's not forget, the Governor mostly took a backseat to the management of the pandemic issue by "allowing" local communities to create their own mandates to protect ourselves. In Petersburg, this meant that it was the responsibility of our public radio to share and coordinate information related to the pandemic from the State, our local health experts, and national news to help our community understand the depth of

the issue and how the pandemic might be resolved. They worked on numerous occasions with the State's Chief Medical Officer; Dr, Ann Zinc, to share updates and call in shows so local residents could hear first hand the best information available. Petersburg broadcasts to many communities in central southeast Alaska so this information helped many beyond our community. In addition to accommodating State-wide information shows, our station produced a weekly live show (for most of the year) that shared information from our local Emergency Response Team, the Borough, the Petersburg Medical Center, and the School District. I'm not sure any station did more for their community.

The hole in the stations budget was temporarily patched by some funding from federal stimulus grants but that hole remains as long as the State doesn't contribute in the future. The pandemic has affected many business in our community through the loss of commerce, tourism, and employment. The poor fishing season also stressed our ability to fund services at the radio station. The effects of this pandemic will last well into this season and we are hoping we have shown how public broadcasting is in keeping everyone healthy.

A couple of weeks ago, Governor Dunleavy was on a state-wide call in show to answer questions about his proposed State budget. I know public broadcasting is not as high of a priority as school funding, the university system, the ferry system, roads, or other priorities. However, it seemed ironic to me, (and a bit hypocritical), that while using public broadcasting to get "his" message out across the state that he would rely on a resource he doesn't even support.

Beyond the information about the pandemic, public broadcasting shares information about State management decisions for wildlife, fishing (commercial and recreational), transportation (like when the State ferry is breaking down again), updates in State services, and more. Public broadcasting is an essential way many people get daily information and, in most places, the State's emergency information coordinator.

I know the Congressional Budget Reserve has been depleted. I know that there may be federal dollars to help fill some State budget gaps this year. The bottom line is that public broadcasting is the most effective way to send information across the State and the State should want to help to maintain this vital link for information.

Public broadcasting is more than entertainment, it's our link to each other.

Bill Tremblay

[REDACTED]

Petersburg, AK 99833

[REDACTED]

From: Kathleen O'Connell <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 2:17 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please help AWAIC weather the VOCA and CDVSA reductions in funding

Dear Co-Chairs Foster and Merrick and all members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to you about a cut to a federal funding stream that has a dire consequence for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA)

receives federal funding from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). Victim service agencies were just informed that they would be facing 30% cuts because of cuts to VOCA which will slash funding for core services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

I support Abused Women's Aid In Crisis (AWAIC) in Anchorage. AWAIC is the only emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence in our community. Due to COVID they have already had to reduce services to victims in the community. This cut will drastically reduce the funding they receive to maintain basic services for those they serve who are among the most vulnerable in our community.

I am asking that the legislature use general funds to make up for the loss of this federal funding. It is critical that we maintain our services for the safety of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Sincerely,

Kathleen O'Connell

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99501

From: Deborah Hurley <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 2:44 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: public radio funding

Dear Representatives

My name is Craig Olson, 37 year resident of Petersburg Alaska. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the budget for public radio HS bill 69 and HS bill 71. I am writing today to urge the partial funding for public broadcasting be restored to the Dep't of Administration budget before it goes to the full Senate Finance Committee. Specifically funding at an approximate level of \$1.6 million, with intent language that directs the Public Broadcasting Commission to allocate funds for radio grants to the smaller stations. I know that KSKA, KNBA, in Anchorage and KTOO in Juneau are willing to forego any funding this year in hopes of ensuring that the smaller and more vulnerable stations across Alaska are able to survive. Rural radio is essential in the Covid coverage and information and disaster response. Many rural stations are sole providers in their communities in Alaska's geographically challenged information systems. Covid has reduced local funding from underwriting, fundraising events, membership, universities and municipalities. Thank you for your consideration.

Craig Olson

From: Marty Freeman <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 2:33 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Funding for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault

Alaska is at the bottom of the list with regards to sexual assault statistics. Now, federal funds to Alaska to help survivors off sexual

violence are being cut, meaning life will worsen for people who already been badly hurt. Please seek ways to offset these cuts through use of COVID relief funding or other means. Please help Alaska get out of last place in dealing with domestic violence and sexual assault.

Thank you,
Marty Freeman
Anchorage

From: Amy Carson-Strnad <Amy_Carson-Strnad@ykhc.org>

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 2:30 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Victim's Services funding cut.

Good afternoon,

My name is Dr. Carson and I have been a Pediatrician at Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel for close to 20 years. As a long term provider here, I am excruciatingly familiar with just how critical these services are in our region. We have 2 times the number of SA (child and adult) than the Alaska state average which is already 4 times higher the lower 48 average. For most of my time here, we had very little funding/infrastructure to care for these patients/victims as they should be. Dr. Prince has been instrumental in greatly improving our services where they are needed, which is here in Bethel, the victims' home region. Dr Prince has worked very hard to build a multidisciplinary SART team in Bethel that responds to each and every Child or Adult SA. This team includes a Law Enforcement agency, either Bethel PD or the Troopers, the medical forensic examiner and an advocate from CAC or TWC. I consider the advocate to be the glue that holds this team together and helps the patient navigate the medical, law enforcement and judicial systems.

I am gravely concerned to learn that federal funding for life-saving advocacy and shelter services for victims and survivors is being cut. This will have devastating impacts in our region.

The advocate is with the patient before the team comes together, throughout the forensic interview/exam to gather DNA evidence/photos, and the advocate remains available to the survivor for as long they need or want afterward. These advocates become a trusted ally and go-to for the survivor to answer questions about their case, sit with them during glass warrants, help them with protective orders, secure shelter at TWC, help them relocate, connect them with local resources, get them in to see Behavioral Health and countless other services. If the funding of Victims Services in our region is cut, that will devastate our community, who desperately need these services and undermine the foundation that our multidisciplinary team is built on and continues to rely heavily on. I urge you to Consider allocating state general funds to cover the gap created by the VOCA

shortfall as I have seen on an almost daily basis how invaluable the services of our TWC and CAC are to the YK Delta survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Child Sexual Assault/Abuse and Child Abuse.

Sincerely,

Amy Carson-Strnad MD
Pediatric Hospitalist
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation
P.O Box 528 Bethel, AK 99559

From: Meghan Crow <meghan_crow@lksd.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 2:51 PM
To: Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>
Cc: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony for HB69



Lower
Kuskokwim
School
District

School Social Work Department

P.O.Box 305 Bethel, Alaska 99559

907-543-4874

FAX 907-543-4925

April 8, 2021

Dear House Finance Committee Co-Chairs and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you. I have worked as a school social worker with the Lower Kuskokwim School District for 23 years and currently hold the position of Lead School Social Worker. In this role I have worked extensively with our local shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

I recognize and appreciate the work of Rep. Merrick and the DPS subcommittee to fully fund victim services through the CDVSA, but I am extremely concerned about the recent information that federal funding for victims and survivors of violence is being cut by 34% in the coming fiscal year.

Shelters in our Alaskan communities have provided not only life saving but also life affirming advocacy and support for victims of violence. In providing these services they provide safety, advocacy and a healing path after the trauma of violence. Our shelter here in Bethel, the Tundra Women's Coalition has been an instrumental part of the promotion of healing and healthy relationships. They are a solid presence in our community offering advocacy, youth programming which leads to empowering youth voices, transitional housing and so much more. Their consistent supportive programming mitigates the presence of adverse childhood experiences in the lives of children and offers a safe path to the future for their families. I cannot quantify the improved quality of life or the positive economic impact TWC's services have had on our community for decades.

Please consider allocating state general funds to cover the gap that will be created by the shortfall in the VOCA. In doing so, you are helping to ensure continued life saving efforts as well as healing and growth in our communities.

Sincere Regards,

Meghan Crow, LCSW
LKSD Lead School Social Worker

From: Richard Cole <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:25 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bart

LeBon <Rep.Bart.Lebon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ben Carpenter <Rep.Ben.Carpenter@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Rep.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB69, HB71, HB72

House Finance Committee members:

In regards to HB69, HB71, HB72

I am writing in support of cutting the budget and in support of paying out the full PFD(as originally calculated.)

When Covid hit my husband lost his slope job ,we realized that we would need to make adjustments to our budget and quickly if we didn't want to go under. It didn't mean that our WANTS had changed it meant that we had to choose what was NEEDED and be responsible.

A lot like the State of Alaska and how we budget based off the price of oil per barrel. We have known that we needed to cut spending and be responsible but for some reason that hasn't happened. The spending has actually increased??? I really can't understand it.

I watch the committee meetings and not once this year have I seen an effort to cut spending. I have heard a lot about finding other sources of revenue in the form of taxes and stealing more of the PFD. I feel like the unions and special interest groups are running the show and private citizens like my family and I are no longer being represented.

I DO appreciate the group of Representatives that have stayed true to the platforms that they campaigned on and stood strong for the Constitution of Alaska.

I appreciate your time,

Misty Cole
Nikiski Alaska

[REDACTED]

From: Brittany John <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:25 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

From: Dave <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:25 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

--

Dave and the dogs, Cromarty and Frejya

[REDACTED]

Seward, Alaska 99664

[REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:23 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Interior Center for Nonviolent living

I truly believe I would not be alive if it wasn't for the interior center for nonviolent living. I saw no way out of my marriage alive. Almost every woman in this situation knows the most deadly time is when you're in the process of leaving or soon after. It's nothing short of paralyzing.

I got up the courage one day to walk in to the center to find out how I could possibly get out of my marriage alive. I was strangled on 3 occasions. I was positive I was going to die that last time. I never had a time for years without bruises. When I walked in I felt empowered because they listened and gave me the tools to make changes. I did an intake assessment and had to face the harsh realization of how grave and dire my situation was. My first visit was less than an hour, but when I left I realized my phone and my kids phones were cut off.

I went back again soon after and they alerted me that it probably meant there was a tracking device on my phone which I discovered there was. They let the decisions be mine and guided me as I made them to leave safely and stay safe. Because of them, I'm alive today and I'm eternally grateful. This resource is vital to the community. The pastor along with other key members of our church were aware of the

violence. There's no real world help in those settings. They simply prayed over us. The center for nonviolent living gives women resources and empowerment to regain their lives.

Theresa Turcotte

From: bjmgarber <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:23 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Bill Garber

From: Harry Kachline <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:19 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

We well understand that money doesn't grow on trees; however, if there's one thing that needs attention, it's care and shelter for victims of domestic violence.

Sincerely,

Harry & Elisabeth Kachline
Anchorage

From: Alyssa Schaefer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:19 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please help AWAIC and other victim services organizations!

Dear Co-Chairs Foster and Merrick and all members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to you about a cut to a federal funding stream that has a dire consequence for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) receives federal funding from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). Victim service agencies were just informed that they would be facing 30% cuts because of cuts to VOCA which will slash funding for core services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

I support Abused Women's Aid In Crisis (AWAIC) in Anchorage. AWAIC is the only emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence in our community. Due to COVID they have already had to reduce services to victims in the community. This cut will drastically reduce the funding they receive to maintain basic services for those they serve who are among the most vulnerable in our community.

I am asking that the legislature use general funds to make up for the loss of this federal funding. It is critical that we maintain our services for the safety of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Schaefer
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99507

From: Bruce Parham <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:17 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

When I first came to Anchorage in 1990, my wife and I lived near the Anchorage Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC) shelter near downtown Anchorage. Over the last 30 years, we have regularly made small

donations to AWAIC. I am distressed that AWAIC is facing a steep \$540,000 cut in its budget — starting July 1, 2021 — due to the loss of federal funds from the Victims in Crime Act (VOCA).

Across Alaska, victim service agencies have been notified to expect a 30-33% cut in funding for FY 2022, starting July 1, 2021.

AWAIC is the only emergency shelter for domestic violence victims in Anchorage. I am very concerned about the considerable reduction in staffing levels at AWAIC. More than that, their Executive Director has indicated that there “will be a reduction in the number of beds available for victims with high lethality.”

Given that Alaska is #1 in the nation in domestic violence and sexual assault, a reduction in services to those in risk is not an option. I hope that you can take action to provide funding assistance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

R. Bruce Parham
(Robert Bruce Parham)

Anchorage, AK 99502-1957

From: Jane Mastre <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:15 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

As a survivor and victim of both DV and SA, this is important, not just worldwide, or nationally, but Alaska is the number 1 state with the highest rates! Please protect our victims!

From: Amy Bradford <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:14 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

From: Tom <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:14 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please fully fund

Dear Legislators

I am a 63 year Alaskan resident with a long history of supporting domestic violence programs in Alaska. I recently learned that the state Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) is expecting a 30% to 33% cut in funding beginning July 1, 2021. To this end I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The expected reduction in funding from the CDVSA will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations.

I'm writing to urge the legislature to help to fill this proposed gap in funding.

Sincerely,

Tom Livingston

Thomas W. Livingston, FAIA
Principal

Livingston Slone Studio
@Nvision

[REDACTED]

From: Lindsey Hajduk <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:13 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

Hi House Finance committee,

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

Thank you,
Lindsey Hajduk
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99503

From: Cory Nelson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:13 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

Dears Committee members,

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

Please consider what you can do to insure services are given to those in need of this help.

Best regards,

Cory Nelson

From: Ian Colbert <icolbert@cssalaska.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:12 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Advocacy for AWAIC, Anchorage and Keeping Appropriate level of Spending to Address Domestic Violence

Hello,

My name is Ian Colbert. I am a case manager at Clare House, a shelter for women and children experiencing homelessness. Many of my clients are either in AWAIC or coming from there, leaving AWAIC's emergency protection from abuse and intimate partner or family violence to come to Clare House. AWAIC is a crucial hub of assessment and safety for the unfortunately large number of women and families for whom domestic violence is a visceral, immediate, sometimes deadly reality.

I don't think we have data yet, but I can say--as many of my colleagues in social services--that domestic violence seems particularly fierce and common with the pandemic. This is not a time to reduce funding or services. Even at Clare House, over half of our families at any one time are in shelter from homelessness due in part to domestic violence, and nearly all indicate that at some point in their lives they experienced it. The level of intensive support, from immediate safety and shelter to ongoing safety planning, is daunting enough, and we are often unable to provide resources, such as peer support groups or counseling, that could better support survivors to make safe choices and plan to leave the cycles of abuse. The pandemic, and probably systemic underfunding, (because the nature of DV is so pervasive, it is always underfunded) are to blame in part, I think.

Please reconsider cuts. Please do not take an everyday, continual EMERGENCY situation--for so many women, children, even men, for vulnerable families in this state--and make it 30% worse, or 540,000 dollars more lethal.

Very sincerely, Very worried,

Ian Colbert
Case Manager, Homeless Family Services/Progressive House
Clare House, Catholic Social Services

4110 Spenard Rd. Anchorage, AK. 99517

icolbert@cssalaska.org

Ph: 907 563-4545 ext. 110

Fax: 907 562-0178

From: Yaa Kabaya <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:10 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. As a survivor of domestic assault, I know how crucial and critical these services are to the future and safety of the victims who may not have the emotional, familial or financial support and resources to break the cycle of abuse. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding. This support can make the difference between life and death.

Sincerely,
Yaa Kabaya

From: Brenda Bowles <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:10 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

Sincerely,

Brenda Bowles

From: Martha Tansik <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:09 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Suzi Pearson <suzi_p@awaic.org>
Subject: VOCA reductions--drastic impacts to domestic violence survivors

Dear Esteemed members of the House Finance Committee:

First, thank you for the thoughtful and difficult work that you do.

As the President-Elect of the Board of Directors for AWAIC, the emergency domestic violence shelter in Anchorage, I humbly request that you consider the implications of the loss of the VOCA funds and engage in finding a solution that will not result in such terrible impacts to those who most need the program. A 30% reduction to AWAIC from the loss of VOA funds is roughly \$540,000 dollars. This sudden loss cannot be made up by grants or the generous gifts of our contributors in time to stop its ramifications. The loss of these funds means that AWAIC will have to drastically reduce our shelter staffing, limiting beds, assistance, and elimination of many support services including assistance for driver's licenses, food worker cards, and other supporting fees to assist participants to successfully transition to independent living. Other cuts include transportation, emergency relocations, and safety and communication devices, as well as support for protective orders. Finally, a cut this size severely impedes our work to prevent domestic violence from occurring in the first place by reducing or eliminating community outreach and education altogether.

Gentlepersons, these cuts mean not only are we leaving the most vulnerable in a worse position, but the cuts would also increase unemployment in the State at a time when we all so desperately need to be able to find our new normal and move forward in prosperity together. Please, as the leaders of our community, find a solution that does not further traumatize victims and result in additional reduction in employment and community services. Your efforts are sincerely appreciated.

Martha Tansik

From: Katherine Burrill <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:07 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

Regards,
Katherine Burrill

From: MIKE MILLS <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:05 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

Sincerely,

Susan Wuorinen and Mike Mills (Palmer, AK)

From: Ronald's Angasan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:05 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

From: KATHY ATKINSON <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:04 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

This is especially urgent because of the pandemic which I believe has resulted in an increase in domestic violence and child abuse in Alaska. Working from home, quarantining, the social isolation, financial difficulties and losing the emotional support of co-workers when forced to work remotely are all factors that I believe have led to this increase. The mental health as well as the physical health of family members are at great risk in these stressful times.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Kathy Atkinson
Law Office of Kathy Atkinson, LLC

From: Dana Rogers <drogers@aptak.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:03 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: AWAIC

To whom it may concern, please diligently look into and consider the impacts a cut of this significance would do to the families served by AWAIC. Especially with COVID, and the fact that our domestic violence statistics are so high, now more than ever we need to maintain the financial contributions to

programs/shelters such as these. It is with a heavy heart that I write you today, thinking of the individuals who may have to continue enduring the abuse and the young children who will have lifelong impacts due to these family tragedies. For the future of our state and to save the lives of Alaskans, please use all your resources and connections to make up this gap in funding. Alaska's kids are counting on you as we work together to stop the cycle of abuse and empower the next generation to rise. It is our civic duty to step in and take care of the lost voices of our state. Thank you, Dana



Dana Rogers

Executive Assistant

Office: 907.279.4266 · Fax: 907.743.8287
1917 Abbott Road, Suite 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99507
ANCHORAGE | WASILLA | FAIRBANKS | SOLDOTNA | SEWARD



www.aptak.com

From: James Ward <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:03 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding. Alaska is one the highest in rates of Domestic Violence today.

From: Kathy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:01 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

From: LynnAnn Briske <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:01 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

From: Matthew Putnam <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 2:59 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

Matthew Putnam
Fairbanks, AK

From: Bridget Paule <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:03 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. I understand that we anticipate a large cut in federal funding from the Victims of Crime Act, estimated to be a 30% (or more) reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. This will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This would inevitably result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

Alaska has the unfortunate status of being #1 in the nation for domestic violence and sexual assault. A reduction in services to those at risk of losing their lives to domestic violence is not an option we should take. Please look for a solution to fill the budget cut left by this devastating loss of funding and let's keep on helping the most vulnerable people in our state.

Thank you,

Bridget Paule
Anchorage, AK 99517
[REDACTED]

From: Tom Duncan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 2:58 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

From: Lilah Walker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 2:58 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

Thank you!
Lilah Walker
[REDACTED]

From: Jaime Bronga <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 2:57 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. In light of COVID and increased levels of domestic and sexual violence we need AWAIC and facilities like it more than ever. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will

be devastating to the agencies that serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life-threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

Sincerely,
Jaime Bronga

From: Roy N Syren Jr <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 2:57 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Spending

HB69 needs to be cut across the board in all sections by 10% to help reduce the deficit spending occurring for the state. We spend too much on ineffective programs that are little more than entitlements for people who live off the government dole. Nonprofits should be funded by private donations and not by the State. Please cut the budget. Thank You for your time.
Roy Syren Jr.

From: Pat Gaedeke <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 2:57 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Written Public Testimony Opportunity - AIDEA 1:30p Friday April 9, 2021

I urge more budgetary and policy oversight of AIDEA.

I have called in to testify at their board meetings on several occasions. They make it difficult to participate and appear to be in violation of the Open Meetings Act.

The board authorizes the spending of millions on poorly planned proposals, often with disastrous results and no accountability. Their failures are never audited and they seem only to repeat their mistakes.

Alaska's economy is in recession, statewide budget cuts are massive, and yet, AIDEA spending remains rampant and unchecked.

The last thing Alaska needs right now is another boardroom of Firecracker Boys."

Patricia Gaedeke, Owner
Iniakuk Lake Wilderness Lodge, LLC
www.gofarnorth.com
[REDACTED]

From: Carolyn Gove <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 2:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Gove

From: Hannah Wright <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 2:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

Hannah Wright
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99515

From: Yvonne Goldsmith <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 2:55 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

I am willing to pay additional taxes to fund this important safety net, so that I don't have to read about my fellow Alaskans enduring horrific

circumstances with no where to turn. I already donate most of my PFD to the Anchorage and Bethel shelters, and to Covenant House.

Thank you very much,

Yvonne W Goldsmith
Anchorage

From: B Carlson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 2:54 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

Sincerely,
Michael and Barbara Carlson
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99502
Anchorage

From: Nathaniel Perry <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 2:53 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

From: Brennon Land <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:42 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Protect women's lives. Please help keep AWAIC in full operation.

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

From: terryms@gci.net <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:42 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

Theresa Slaven
Wasilla

From: Joan Mattson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:40 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

Regards,
Joan Mattson

Namaste 🙏

[REDACTED]

From: Karen K <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:40 PM
To: Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>
Cc: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public Input - CDVSA Cuts

Dear Representative Neal Foster,

My name is Karen Kresh and I serve on the Board of Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence (USAFV) here in Unalaska.

I would like to thank Governor Dunleavy for recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, for recognizing the need for more prosecuting attorneys in the Department of Law's budget to respond to sexual assault backlog cases, and for his call to all Alaskans to "make Alaska the safest state in the country, especially for...women and children."

We are grateful to Representative Merrick and the DPS subcommittee for all their hard work to fully fund victim services through the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Unfortunately, we have only recently learned that federal funding for life-saving advocacy and shelter services for victims and survivors is being cut. This will have devastating impacts across our beautiful state.

On April 1, community-based victim services agencies including USAFV received a memo from CDVSA stating that the State of Alaska's FFY2021 VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) funds would be reduced by \$4.1 million and that all victim services should expect a 30% cut in their grants starting in FY2022. **Crime victims should not be expected to bear the brunt of these cuts.**

USAFV provides critical services in our community. If we lose 30% of our funding, here are some of the choices we will be forced to make here in Unalaska:

- **We will have to strictly limit the amount of time we can allow women and children to stay in the shelter because of decreased funding for shelter staff.** This is unrealistic, considering how difficult it is to secure safe, affordable housing in one of the most expensive communities, and tightest housing markets, in the state;
- **We will have to cut the amount budgeted for emergency travel for victims by more than half,** also unrealistic considering how expensive it is for a victim to get out of Unalaska if she has no safe options here;
- We will have to cut back our part-time outreach position by nearly half, which will **severely curtail our efforts to prevent future violence** through outreach and education;

- We will have to eliminate nearly all funding for staff training.

The services provided by USAFV are vital to the health and well-being of Unalaska. We are reaching out to ask that you address this crisis before the end of the legislative session, and consider allocating state general funds to cover the gap created by the VOCA shortfall.

Alaska continues to have some of the highest rates of sexual and domestic violence, including violence against children. Now is not the time to cut lifesaving services to victims and survivors of these crimes. Please help us to continue to offer safe shelter, advocacy, and other services to those who need them.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Karen Kresh, Chair, USAFV Board of Directors
Unalaska, Alaska

Cc: Alaska House Finance Committee Members

From: Aase Haugen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:36 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

From: John Bailey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:33 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

From: Michelle Wilber <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:57 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

From: Bede <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:57 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

From: Kristy Mocan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:54 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

Best regards,

Kristy Mocan

From: Chelsea Lindquist <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:52 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result

in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

Chelsea Vukovich
Anchorage, 99516

From: May Main <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:51 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

Thank you,
May Main

From: Karen Zeman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:46 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support resources for victims of domestic violence

Dear finance committee,

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

Sincerely,
Karen Zeman

From: Melissa Knight <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:42 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

While this letter was prompted by AWAIC, I truly support the spending of Alaska state funds on this issue. Victims of domestic violence are powerless over their situation and NEED outside help. As a state that is #1 in domestic violence we must respond to this dire need!!!

Sincerely,
Melissa Knight
[REDACTED]

From: Veronica Beagan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:58 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please protect victims of domestic violence and sexual assault!

I am writing to express my support for AWAIC and the many victim service agencies across our state. The reduction in funding from the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault will be devastating to the agencies who serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This could result in services being denied to victims who have no other safe place to go, which would be life threatening in many situations. I urge the legislature to help to fill this gap in funding.

Veronica Beagan

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 4:00 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Community & Public Transit Requests from Alaska Mobility Coalition

Good Afternoon House Finance Committee Members,

On behalf of the Alaska Mobility Coalition and the 40 plus members the attached requests as part of your 2022 budget deliberations.

Feel free to call me at 907-301-0728 or email me at reinhardt@gci.net if you have any questions.

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Alaska.

Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director
Alaska Mobility Coalition



Achieving mobility through community appropriate transportation services

AMC Legislative Talking Points For 2022 State Budget

The AMC is the only organization that advocates for public and community transportation options for Alaskans. Our membership, representing a coalition of over 40 public and human service agencies from across the state, serves the mobility needs of seniors, persons with disabilities and low-income Alaskans who have no other means of transportation support. ***Our systems provide over 5,000,000 rides annually for Alaskans to get to work, medical appointments and social activities.***

Status of Federal Covid Relief funds for Rural Transit (RT) and Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS). The State has been allocated just over \$27 M in federal CARES Act funding (2020) to help Rural Transit providers meet their needs during the Covid Crisis. The State allocated 65.3% to the 12 RT providers across the state and 34.7% to AMHS. The state now expects \$55.7 million in CRRSAA (2021) funding for the same purposes. DOTP&F is discussing how to spend this money internally and their strategy has not yet been presented to the shared with AMC members. What we have heard is concerning; that AMHS wants all of it to meet their budget shortfall, which is nowhere near \$55 Million. While we support the needs of AMHS, they must be at the table with us, and not working against the other rural transit providers who have legitimate budget strains as well. The two thirds RT/one third AMHS split seems fair as a starting point, especially given that the ridership numbers provided to the federal government, which determine our federal allocation of Rural Transit funding are provided by the 12 RT providers and not AMHS. ***Legislative Ask: In allocating these funds, and future funding for Rural Transit in general, the Legislature and the Governor must take in the needs of all the providers, not just the AMHS. We suggest maintaining the 2/3rds RT, 1/3 AMHS split.***

Public and Community Transit Match: DOTP&F \$ 1 Million in GF—This program was ended two years ago during budget cuts and is not included in the 2022 Governor's Budget. The Community match program has existed for many years, and the amount has varied from a high of \$2,000,000 to a low of \$500,000. Funding was used by large and small transit and human service transportation providers alike to help meet the match requirements of over \$10 million in federal funding being drawn down by the state or local public transit agencies. Most federal transit programs require local match funding of 10-50% match, depending on the source of funds. Not all local communities, or human service transportation providers, have access to tax revenues or other sources to meet the match requirements, and therefore cannot apply for the federal funds. Without a state match fund, providers struggle to find ways to meet their match requirements, often having to curtail services to reduce their budget overall. We estimate that out every state dollar invested in this program, we get a return of \$3 in federal funds. ***Legislative Ask: Reconstitute the Public and Community Transit Match Program in FY 22 in the Capital budget (SB 51) and help us bring even more federal dollars into Alaska to support community transportation needs across the state.***



Achieving mobility through community appropriate transportation services

Mental Health Coordinated Transportation and Vehicles: DOTP&F \$1.3 Million (\$300.0 MHTAR; \$1,000.0 GFMH) – *This project is in the Governor's 2022 Budget proposal.* This project is designed to increase the mobility of Alaska Mental Health Trust beneficiaries. Funding is granted to private nonprofit and public transportation providers through a competitive grant process. In addition to helping beneficiaries, each community transportation system serves as an economic engine for the community - more people can get to job interviews, job training and jobs, while employers find it easier to obtain and keep dependable employees. **Legislative Ask: *We thank the Governor and the Legislature for including this project as proposed by the Alaska Mental Health Trust in SB 51.***

From: Tiffany Hall <thall@recoveralaska.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 5:16 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Budget for sobering centers

Hello,

Attached please find a letter supporting restoration of the budget to sobering centers.

Best,
Tiffany

Tiffany Hall
Executive Director | she/her



3201 C Street, Suite 110
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-249-6644



March 17, 2021

Dear members of the House Finance Committee:

I am writing to oppose the proposed decrease in funding for Sobering Centers, and urge you to restore funding for Sobering Centers in Fairbanks and Bethel to their FY21 levels. These facilities save lives, improve public safety and connect people with lasting services to help them achieve sobriety.

Recover Alaska is a multi-sector action group working to reduce excessive alcohol use and its harms across the state. Our vision is for Alaskans to live free from the harms of alcohol misuse, so we are all empowered to achieve our full potential. One important part of our mission is increasing access to treatment and supporting recovery, which for many starts with a safe transition out of crisis.

Sobering Centers have shown to be effective in Alaska by reducing the burden on more costly emergency services. The center in Bethel, operated by YKHC, opened to meet a real need for a safe place where people could detox and be referred to long-term treatment. The Fairbanks center, operated by TCC, was also based on this model. These centers are tailored specifically to this need. Both facilities provide a critical service at a lower cost than the two alternatives: holding someone in jail or in the emergency department. The worst alternative is having no available options, with a person forced to sleep outside and be vulnerable to cold weather, victimization, and other safety threats.

Sobering Centers provide a no-frills level of service, with minimal staffing — however, they also connect a person in crisis with opportunities for recovery through a brief screening and a referral (SBIRT) to other services in the community. This screening is voluntary for clients, but a required step for the facility to be reimbursed through Medicaid for any services, including newly reimbursable services through the state's 1115 behavioral health waiver. Only a portion of current clients consent to the screening and are also Medicaid eligible; it is not realistic to expect this proposed cut to be fully offset.

Both the TCC and YKHC centers rely on state funding to maintain 24/7 operations and anticipate an increase in demand as the state returns to a post-COVID normal. A funding cut, without realistic expectation to replace this revenue with Medicaid billing, may force a reduction of hours or cutting a case manager position, a key staff member who helps make the connection to treatment and other services. Without this service available full-time, vulnerable clients will go to jail, emergency departments, or remain unprotected outside.

Recover Alaska supports access to treatment and maintaining a variety of avenues to get there, including helping people in crisis take the first steps to real change. Cutting this funding would likely shift the burden to more expensive services and reduce opportunities for referrals to services. We strongly urge you to restore full funding for these facilities, which are critical for both health and public safety.

Thank you for your consideration, and your service to our state.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Hall
Executive Director

From: Eve Van Dommelen <EVanDommelen@foodbankofalaska.org>

Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 1:04 PM

To: Senate Finance <Finance.Calendar@akleg.gov>; Senate Health and Social Services <Senate.HSS@akleg.gov>; House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; House Health and Social Services <House.HSS@akleg.gov>; Sen. Robert Myers <Senator.Robert.Myers@akleg.gov>; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson <Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>

Cc: Jessie Menkens <JessieM@alaskapca.org>

Subject: Letter from Alaskans Together for Medicaid and Alaska Food Coalition on Proposed cut to DPA staffing

Dear Legislative Leadership, Finance Committee Members, and Health and Social Services Committee Members,

Please see the attached letter sent to Commissioner Crum today regarding the proposed staffing cut of \$10 million to the Division of Public Assistance. We appreciate your consideration of these concerns. Please feel free to reach out to the contacts listed in the letter with any questions.

Thank you,
Eve

Eve Van Dommelen
Policy & Advocacy Manager



Food Bank of Alaska

2121 Spar Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501

Cell: 907-744-9665

Office: 907.222.3103

FoodBankofAlaska.org





March 16, 2021

Dear Commissioner Crum,

As coalition organizations that work in close partnership with the Division of Public Assistance (DPA), we are concerned with the proposal to cut roughly 25% of the division's front-line staff. DPA oversees programs that provide critical resources for struggling Alaskans. We are concerned about reducing capacity of one of the key agencies working on the front lines of COVID.

We believe the proposed cuts to DPA staffing will result in more challenges for Alaskans in connecting with health and nutrition resources like SNAP and Medicaid when the need for assistance is at unprecedented levels. Furthermore, as we support communities with recovery, we anticipate increased caseload work once Medicaid 1135 waiver provisions to support rolling enrollment expire.

We commend DPA staff for their excellent work navigating the many changes that have come due to the pandemic, including the transition to telework, staying on top of the ever-changing regulatory environment, rolling out a brand-new program (Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer), and assisting the growing number of Alaskans in need. Through our close partnerships, we have seen first-hand the dedication and tremendous work put forward by DPA staff. However, more recently we have seen Alaskans struggling to access benefits and connect with staff at the Division due to current resources being overwhelmed by demand.

Here are specific challenges we are currently seeing, and reasons for concern in the proposal to reduce staff capacity:

Application processing times have increased and seem to be dependent on the presence of COVID waivers. This is most evident in the SNAP program. Food Bank of Alaska's SNAP Outreach Team works directly with clients to provide application assistance and case status checks. They have seen the processing time for applications dramatically increase. Many applications are processed outside of the 30-day window, with clients waiting 5 to 6 weeks to even get their case looked at. Some clients have waited over 8 weeks.

While processing times were good for many months of 2020, we received waivers for the SNAP interview and recertifications once COVID-19 hit. When the state did not renew the waivers in the fall, processing times increased quickly and dramatically as a result. With the waivers in

place again as of January, processing times are improving. The waivers have been a great tool to help manage caseloads, however, since they are tied to COVID, they will eventually go away. Ensuring the state has the staff capacity for this normal workload is key for Alaskans in need.

Alaskans are struggling with additional documentation burdens. When SNAP interviews were waived, simple informational points previously covered in the interview were then required as documentation. Applicants sometimes receive a laundry list of items they need to provide to the DPA, such as a written statement on monthly rent expenses from a landlord. Applicants were often confused and challenged to secure all of the requested documents, and some just gave up.

Alaskans applying for assistance encounter a variety of issues, such as:

- Receiving notices for a scheduled interview after the interview date. The client is unable to contact anyone at DPA for assistance.
- Requests for documentation on a wide variety of expenses, including statements on how the client plans to pay for expenses that are more than their income.
- The number of pended cases doubled in December that the Food Bank of Alaska's SNAP Outreach team assisted Alaskans on, and approval ratings declined.
- Processing time has dramatically increased for general Medicaid or TEFRA and Medicaid waiver service approvals. As a result, agencies are providing services without being reimbursed or individuals are going without necessary services.
- When individuals renew their Medicaid eligibility, the processing time for reapplications are taking much longer than before. In addition, when DPA requests additional information for the reapplications, the processing times can be extremely lengthy.

Alaskans struggle to reach staff at the Division for assistance. Outreach staff and assisters report clients cannot reach DPA staff, whether it is to ask a question, check on their case status, or try to call in for an interview. This can be extremely detrimental to individuals as their support services may stop, they might not receive needed medical supplies, and they aren't able to seek medical or dental services. By decreasing DPA staff, processing times will continue to get longer. When individuals who need waiver services go without support services, they may seek emergency services which impact our state financially in a different way.

Challenges accessing State services leads to more steps for Alaskans in need and additional pressure on nonprofits. When Alaskans do not get a timely response from the State, they turn to nonprofits for help navigating the system. For example, the State of Alaska reported a drop in clients receiving SNAP from 79,626 recipients in November to 73,208 in January. These same months were the second and third busiest months ever for the Food Bank of Alaska's SNAP Outreach team which helped 294 Alaskans in December and 268 in January. The Food Bank of Alaska had to hire additional outreach staff to try and keep up with the additional inquiries. This may signal that FBA's team is taking on a lot of people who can't get a hold of DPA, that Alaskans are having access issues, and there are unmet needs in our communities. We support

the plan to roll out a call center later this month and encourage the department to acknowledge the additional capacity necessary to address the volume of demand for services.

Efficiencies cited as justification for staffing cuts have not happened yet. For example, electronic renewals have not rolled out. This technological advancement will be a much-needed improvement, but the timeline for rolling this out remains unclear. The roll-out of new technology platforms has been fraught with challenges for the Department, staff, Alaskans, and providers. Confirming the efficiencies are working as planned before eliminating positions should be considered to avoid negative impacts to Alaskans who receive the services and the staff administering the programs.

We feel strongly that cutting additional staffing positions would result in poor outcomes for Alaskans in need, and Alaska's nonprofits cannot fill this gap in service delivery.

This is not the right time to cut front line staff when there are still significant process and access barriers to receiving assistance through the Division of Public Assistance. The state is moving in the right direction with planning technology and efficiencies, and we applaud you for this progress, but the system is not yet ready to withstand this significant staffing reduction.

We appreciate the opportunity to share these concerns with you, and we look forward to more discussion on this issue moving forward. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with you and your team. Follow up can be directed to Jessie Menkens at 907.297.9986 or jessiem@alaskapca.org or Eve Van Dommelen at 907.222.3103 or evandommelen@foodbankofalaska.org.

Sincerely,

Mat-Su Health Foundation
Alaska Native Health Board
Alaska State Hospital & Nursing Home Association
Disability Law Center of Alaska
Food Bank of Alaska
Alaska Primary Care Association
Alaska State Medical Association
Statewide Independent Living Council
Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawai'i
Southeast Alaska Independent Living, Inc.
Alaska Children's Trust
Christians for Equality
The Alaska Christian Conference
Alaska Center for Pediatrics

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
AARP Alaska
AGENET
Southeast Alaska Food Bank
Nenana Tortella Council on Aging, Inc.
Upper Susitna Food Pantry
He Will Provide, Inc. (Seward)
F.I.S.H.
Alaska Food Policy Council
Alaska Public Health Association
Catholic Social Services of Alaska
Bean's Café
Kenai Peninsula Food Bank
Helping Hands Food Bank, Tok
Qawalangin Tribe of Alaska
Bread Line Inc. (Fairbanks)
Alaska Public Interest Research Group

From: Daniel Oberlatz <dan@alaskaalpineadventures.com>
Date: April 5, 2021 at 2:51:52 PM AKDT
To: Alaska Alpine Adventures <info@alaskaalpineadventures.com>
Cc: Dan Blanchard <danb@uncruise.com>, Colleen Stephens
<colleen@stephenscruises.com>, Steve Judd <steve@alaskatravel.com>
Subject: Infrastructure Funding

Greetings,

Please see attached letter addressing the need for recreation & infrastructure project funding signed onto by impacted Alaska tourism businesses.

Sincerely,

Dan

Dan Oberlatz | [Alaska Alpine Adventures](#)
Owner-Guide
Tel: 1-877-525-2577 | Cell: 907-301-9997



APRIL 5, 2021

ATTN: Alaska State House & Senate Finance Committee Members

RE: Funding Recreation & Infrastructure Projects in Alaska

Greetings Committee Members,

As members of the business community who depend on independent travelers, we are writing to request that you fund both the Governor's funding request for the Alaska Long Trail, and State Parks' statewide list of projects including new public use cabins, trails, and trailhead improvements.

The COVID pandemic has made these investments urgent as we strive to maintain and grow our businesses, which are based almost entirely on independent travelers. Many other states and nations have shown that investment in outdoor infrastructure can yield significant economic development benefits, and we believe Alaska must catch up with competitors who have done far more to develop the recreational infrastructure that attracts visitors.

As you know, our recreational infrastructure was heavily used before the pandemic and now is overwhelmed. Most public use cabins are fully booked, our trails are eroding, and many trailheads have grossly insufficient parking. This is not acceptable when independent travelers coming to Alaska expect adequate and well-maintained facilities.

Alaska is undergoing an economic transition, and the pandemic has accelerated it. In order for our businesses to thrive we desperately need independent travelers. Furthermore, a prolonged low oil price environment should compel us all to fully support not only the visitor industry, but also the outdoor recreation infrastructure that makes Alaska such a world class destination. These investments will help to assure that our businesses can again prosper as we move forward from the devastating effects the pandemic. Fortunately, these investments not only attract visitors but also make Alaska a more desirable place to live and raise a family, which is exactly what our state needs as we combat years population losses that threaten our economy.



Sincerely,

Dan, Dan, Colleen & Steve

Dan Blanchard
Owner & CEO
UnCruise Adventures
danb@UnCruise.com

Steve Judd
President
Alaska Tour & Travel
Steve@Alaskatravel.com

Colleen Stephens
President
Stan Stephens Cruises
colleen@stephenscruises.com

Dan Oberlatz
Owner
Alaska Alpine Adventures
Dan@AlaskaAlpineAdventures.com

Filename: OUTDOOR-REC-INFRASTRUCTURE.docx
Directory: /Users/danieloberlatz/Dropbox/Oberlatz
Template: Normal.dotm
Title: Thursday -Day 1 – Anchorage overnight
Subject:
Author: Dan Oberlatz
Keywords:
Comments:
Creation Date: 4/5/21 3:40:00 PM
Change Number: 2
Last Saved On: 4/5/21 3:40:00 PM
Last Saved By: Microsoft Office User
Total Editing Time: 2 Minutes
Last Printed On: 4/5/21 3:41:00 PM
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 2
Number of Words: 412 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 2,349 (approx.)

From: Suzi P <suzi_p@awaic.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 6:03 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Devastating Cuts to Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Programs
Importance: High

Dear Co-Chairs Foster and Merrick and all members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Abused Women's Aid In Crisis (AWAIC). I deeply appreciate Governor Dunleavy and the legislature's commitment to public safety and the safety of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. You have demonstrated this by continually ensuring that funding for domestic violence and sexual assault agencies is protected for the last several years during lean times for the state.

AWAIC is one of over 23 victim service agencies in the state committed to providing services to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The majority of the funding for core services comes from CDVSA. CDVSA has been stably funded by state and federal funds for the past several years. One of those federal awards, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), has been a critical piece of funding for victim services. However, AWAIC received notice on Thursday that due to a 34.6% or \$2.6 million cut in VOCA funding **CDVSA would be cutting all victim service awards by 30% - 33%.** Please see the attached memo from Diane Casto, Executive Director of CDVSA.

A 30% decrease in funding would be devastating to victims across the state. It will reduce services offered by AWAIC which is the only emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence in Anchorage and this would be a serious threat to the safety of victims of domestic violence. For AWAIC that would be a \$540,000 cut in the budget for core services such as shelter, the emergency crisis line, and legal advocacy.

Possible worse case impacts:

- Reduction in staff down to a skeleton crew. This will reduce the availability of services for victims who are in shelter because staffing will be minimal with the goal to simply operate the shelter safely.
- Reduction in number of beds available for victims of domestic violence due to lack of staffing.
- Reduction in the number of those served on a non-residential basis.
- Reduction in the number of individuals that receive support completing protective orders.
- No direct client assistance for driver's licenses, food worker cards, and other supporting fees to assist participants to successfully transition to independent

living. Other cuts include transportation, emergency relocations, and safety and communication devices.

- Reduction in or possibly no community outreach and education.

AWAIC is exploring other options to assist in resolving this situation in addition to educating the legislature about this crisis. I cannot stress enough that your help is desperately needed at this time. I am asking the House Finance Committee to please help find a solution or possibly fill this devastating cut with general funds.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 907-743-5726 or suzi_p@awaic.org.

Sincerely,

Suzi Pearson
Executive Director
Abused Women's Aid In Crisis, Inc.
907-743-5726 (office)
907-272-0100 (crisis)
100 W 13th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Public Safety

COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT
L. Diane Casto, Executive Director

150 3rd Street
PO Box 111200
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1200
Main: 907.465.4322
Fax: 907.465.4362

MEMORANDUM

TO: CDVSA Sub-Grantees

FROM: L. Diane Casto, Executive Director *L. Diane Casto*

DATE: April 1, 2021

RE: VOCA federal formula grant reduction

On Tuesday, March 30, CDVSA held its FY2021 3rd quarter Council Board Meeting, updating Board members on the status of a projected reduction of our FFY2021 VOCA funding award. The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) is funded from the Federal Crime Victims Fund (CVF); the CVF is a non-taxpayer source of funding, with deposits to the fund fluctuating annually. These deposits have been dropping since FFY18 and while it was believed the reduction would be gradual, it is currently dropping quickly. For Alaska it has gone from \$5.4 million in FFY16 to a high of \$7.9 million in FFY18 and now a projected FFY2021 award of \$2.6 million or a 34.6% reduction from our FFY2020 award of \$4.1 million. Not only will our FY2021 allocation be reduced by 34.6%, but because of reductions over the last two years, we also do not have the amount of funds to carry forward that we have had in the past.

These are devastating cuts, impacting VOCA victim assistance and compensation funding. While we have known reductions were likely, we did not realize they would be so significant and would happen so quickly. In an effort to remedy the situation, Congress has introduced the VOCA Fix legislation intended, over time, to stabilize and sustain funds deposited into the CVF, the fund that provides money to VOCA. Initially we believed this legislation would provide timely relief to state VOCA allocations; we have now been informed the legislation will only change the way deposits are made into the CVF and that it will take 2+ years for the fund to accumulate enough money to eliminate continued funding cuts.

What this means is that CDVSA will have significantly less funding to award to sub-grantees than we had last year, and while we have been working diligently to crunch numbers for FY2022, using all available resources, the impact will still be a 30-33% reduction for all Victim Services (VF) and Enhanced Services (ES) grant programs.



Alaska's Council on
Domestic Violence
& Sexual Assault

On Monday, MaryBeth Gagnon and I are meeting with Senator Murkowski's office to get the most up-to-date information on the VOCA Fix legislation and American Rescue Plan Act funding, including money set aside for DVSA services and money coming into Alaska to assist individuals, businesses and services impacted by the COVID pandemic. We will keep you posted as we learn more. And, while we are committed to making every effort possible to mitigate the financial impact to our sub-grantees, there are no guarantees.

Unfortunately, we are also at that point in the fiscal year when we must provide each VS, ES and BIP grantee with their FY2022 funding allocation, based on what we know right now. Prevention grants end on June 30 and a new RFP for those funds will be released later in April. BIP funding will not be reduced because those are funds designated specifically for BIP services.

I also want to be clear that all sub-grantees who receive Victim Services and Enhanced Services grants will be reduced by 30-33%--not just those that currently receive VOCA funding. Because our programs do not select which funding source they receive, it would be unfair to cut only those whose current funding allocation includes VOCA. All funds will be captured and redistributed in an equitable manner. We anticipate having FY2022 allocation amounts sent to sub-grantees no later than the last week of April—hopefully sooner.

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At this time, this is as much information as we have; as I said above we will continue to work the problem and look for ways to reduce the impact of these funding cuts, but for now, we must all plan on a 30-33% reduction in VS and ES grant funds.

If you have additional questions, please reach out to your Program Coordinator or me and we will give you the most complete and accurate response we can! Thank you for all you do!

From: Lye-Ching Wong <Lye-Ching_Wong@ykhc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 12:39 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: In support of more funding for TWC/CAC of YK Delta

Hello,

Attached is my letter advocating for increasing funding for the TSC/CAC of the YK Delta.
Please let me know if you have further questions.

Lye-Ching Wong, MD

Pediatrician

Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

PO Box 528, Bethel AK 99559

713.828.1543 (cell)

www.ykhc.org



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Kongiganak
Kotlik
Kwethluk
Kwigillingok
Lime Village
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Newtok
Nightmute
Nunam Iqua
Nunapitchuk
Ohogomiut
Oscarville
Paimute
Pilot Station
Pitka's Point
Quinhagak
Red Devil
Russian Mission
Scammon Bay
Shageluk
Sleetmute
St. Mary's
Stony River
Toksook Bay
Tuluksak
Tuntutuliak
Tununak
Umkumiut
Upper Kalskag

To whom it may concern,

My name is Lye-Ching Wong and I am a Pediatrician at Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel. In the YK Delta, we have 2 times the number of sexual assault/ abuse (child and adult) than the Alaska state average, which is already 4 times higher the lower 48 average. In Bethel, we have worked very hard to build a multidisciplinary sexual assault response team (SART) that responds to each and every Child or Adult SA. This team includes a Law Enforcement agency, either Bethel PD or the Troopers, the medical forensic examiner, and an advocate from CAC or TWC. I consider the advocate to be the glue that holds this team together and helps the patient navigate the medical, law enforcement and judicial systems.

Unfortunately, we just learned that federal funding for life-saving advocacy and shelter services for victims and survivors is being cut. This will have devastating impacts in our region.

The advocate is with the patient before the team comes together, throughout the forensic interview/exam to gather DNA evidence/photos, and the advocate remains available to the survivor for as long they need or want afterward. These advocates become a trusted ally and go-to for the survivor to answer questions about their case, sit with them during glass warrants, help them with protective orders, secure shelter at TWC, help them relocate, connect them with local resources, get them in to see Behavioral Health and countless other services. If the funding of Victims Services in our region is cut, that will devastate our community, who desperately need these services and undermine the foundation that our multidisciplinary team is built on and continues to rely heavily on. I urge you to consider allocating state general funds to cover the gap created by the VOCA shortfall as I have seen on an almost daily basis how invaluable the services of our TWC and CAC are to the YK Delta survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Child Sexual Assault/Abuse and Child Abuse.

Sincerely,

Lye-Ching Wong, MD
Pediatrician
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation
PO Box 528, Bethel AK 99559

From: Carmen Lowry <clowry@andvsa.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 5:03 PM
To: Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>
Cc: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: 4.1 Million Cut to Victim Services

Dear Co-Chairs Merrick and Foster and Members of the House Finance Committee -

I hope you are well. I am writing to you today as the Executive Director of the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. First, thank you Rep. Merrick and the DPS subcommittee for your work to fully fund victim services through the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA).

Unfortunately, the 35 CDVSA-funded non-profit agencies and/or tribal entities who provide services for victims of crime just learned that Alaska expects a \$4.1 million reduction in FFY22 VOCA (victims of crime act) federal funding that is specifically allocated for victim services.

On April 1 community-based victim service agencies received a memo from CDVSA (see attached) stating that the State of Alaska's FFY2022 VOCA funds would be reduced by \$4.1 million and that all sub-granting agencies that receive victim services funds and/or VOCA enhanced services funds should expect an approximate 30% cut in their grants starting in FY2022.

This will have devastating impacts.

We are looking for assistance from the legislature to help us in this dire emergency. Please consider allocating general fund dollars to ensure victims of crime – and this includes children – receive the services that they have a right to receive. Crime victims should not be expected to bear the brunt of this reduction in pass-through federal funds.

A cut this drastic, this sudden, will be devastating to victims and survivors and for those agencies that serve their communities.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service,

Carmen Lowry

Carmen Lowry, PhD

Executive Director
Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
907.957.2542
130 Seward St., Suite 214
Juneau, Alaska 99801
www.andvsa.org





THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Public Safety

COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT
L. Diane Casto, Executive Director

150 3rd Street
PO Box 111200
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1200
Main: 907.465.4322
Fax: 907.465.4362

MEMORANDUM

TO: CDVSA Sub-Grantees

FROM: L. Diane Casto, Executive Director *L. Diane Casto*

DATE: April 1, 2021

RE: VOCA federal formula grant reduction

On Tuesday, March 30, CDVSA held its FY2021 3rd quarter Council Board Meeting, updating Board members on the status of a projected reduction of our FFY2021 VOCA funding award. The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) is funded from the Federal Crime Victims Fund (CVF); the CVF is a non-taxpayer source of funding, with deposits to the fund fluctuating annually. These deposits have been dropping since FFY18 and while it was believed the reduction would be gradual, it is currently dropping quickly. For Alaska it has gone from \$5.4 million in FFY16 to a high of \$7.9 million in FFY18 and now a projected FFY2021 award of \$2.6 million or a 34.6% reduction from our FFY2020 award of \$4.1 million. Not only will our FY2021 allocation be reduced by 34.6%, but because of reductions over the last two years, we also do not have the amount of funds to carry forward that we have had in the past.

These are devastating cuts, impacting VOCA victim assistance and compensation funding. While we have known reductions were likely, we did not realize they would be so significant and would happen so quickly. In an effort to remedy the situation, Congress has introduced the VOCA Fix legislation intended, over time, to stabilize and sustain funds deposited into the CVF, the fund that provides money to VOCA. Initially we believed this legislation would provide timely relief to state VOCA allocations; we have now been informed the legislation will only change the way deposits are made into the CVF and that it will take 2+ years for the fund to accumulate enough money to eliminate continued funding cuts.

What this means is that CDVSA will have significantly less funding to award to sub-grantees than we had last year, and while we have been working diligently to crunch numbers for FY2022, using all available resources, the impact will still be a 30-33% reduction for all Victim Services (VF) and Enhanced Services (ES) grant programs.



Alaska's Council on
Domestic Violence
& Sexual Assault

On Monday, MaryBeth Gagnon and I are meeting with Senator Murkowski's office to get the most up-to-date information on the VOCA Fix legislation and American Rescue Plan Act funding, including money set aside for DVSA services and money coming into Alaska to assist individuals, businesses and services impacted by the COVID pandemic. We will keep you posted as we learn more. And, while we are committed to making every effort possible to mitigate the financial impact to our sub-grantees, there are no guarantees.

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At this time, this is as much information as we have; as I said above we will continue to work the problem and look for ways to reduce the impact of these funding cuts, but for now, we must all plan on a 30-33% reduction in VS and ES grant funds.

If you have additional questions, please reach out to your Program Coordinator or me and we will give you the most complete and accurate response we can! Thank you for all you do!

From: NAMI Alaska <alaskanami@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 9:41 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Cc: Abbott, Mike K (DOR) <mike.abbott@alaska.gov>
Subject: HFC Testimony for FY22 operating budgets

Attached, please find NAMI Alaska's letter of testimony regarding the FY22 Operating and Mental Health Budgets for the record as you conduct your public hearings this week.

Respectfully,

Ann Ringstad
Executive Director
NAMI Alaska



**Affiliates in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and North Slope
Serving all of Alaska**

April 8, 2021

Representative Neal Foster, Co-Chair
Representative Kelly Merrick, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska State House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Governor's FY22 Budget: Operating (HB 69) & Mental Health (HB 71)

Dear Co-Chairs and members of the House Finance Committee,

NAMI Alaska would like to voice our opposition to the Governor's FY22 state operating budget actions to utilize Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority's Reserve Funds in lieu of state general fund dollars, as well as the reduction in funding for the Civil Legal Services Fund, and Sobering Centers. In addition, a reduction of \$35 million in Medicaid reimbursement funds to be supplanted with Federal CARES funding is unrealistic, especially without a plan and timeline for implementation.

NAMI Alaska supports a comprehensive array of treatment, services and supports that address prevention, early intervention, recovery, and support. We support continued resources for critical programs and services that support Alaska's most vulnerable citizens. We support the Trust and partner advisory boards in directing state resources and implementing measures that expand Alaska's revenue base, preserving its savings accounts, and protecting dedicated funds for the purposes they were statutorily and constitutionally intended.

We are encouraged by the work of the House Finance Budget Subcommittees to add very needed funding to behavioral health supports, including Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery (BHTR) grants, frontline social workers capacity-building, increasing the Intellectual-Developmental Disabilities (IDD) waitlist capacity, Public Assistance Field Services enhancements, and Office of Children's Services (OCS) retention efforts.

Adequate services are essential to persons living with mental illness in achieving stability. Alaskans experiencing mental illness, developmental disabilities, chronic alcoholism, traumatic brain injury, Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder are all Trust beneficiaries. In many cases, these beneficiaries are some of the most vulnerable populations in the state.

NAMI Alaska • PO Box 201753 • Anchorage, AK 99520-1753
(907)277-1300 • Fax (907)277-8456 • alaskanami@gmail.com

By statute, the Trust must make recommendations for state general fund spending which are developed in coordination with the Trust's contribution to funding state programs. This year, the Trust developed a list of general fund recommendations for many programs/projects/grants to support Trust beneficiaries. The Governor's proposed FY22 budget replaces the board of trustee-approved general fund recommendations with \$4.29 million in Trust Budget Reserves. We understand these direct appropriations were not discussed with the Trust and were not approved by the Trust's Board of Trustees. An overdraw on the Trust's Reserves could have negative impacts on current and future spending and support for Trust beneficiaries.

Cuts to the mental health budget on the State of Alaska level, especially in regard to mental wellness and mental health programs, do not save money in the long run. In the long run, investing in behavioral health services will bring a large return-on-investment to the state. NAMI Alaska is opposed to any reductions in these budgets, including diversion of Trust funds without the Trust's approval.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Respectfully,



Ann Ringstad
Executive Director

cc: Mike Abbott, CEO
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. NAMI advocates for access to services, treatment, supports and research and is steadfast in its commitment to raise awareness and build a community for hope for all of those in need.

NAMI Alaska is the Alaska state chapter of NAMI and has been helping people affected by mental illness since 1984. NAMI Alaska envisions a state where all people affected by mental illness live healthy, fulfilling lives supported by a caring, culturally sensitive community. There are over 600 local NAMI affiliates nationwide, of which four are in Alaska: NAMI Anchorage, NAMI Fairbanks, NAMI Juneau, and NAMI North Slope. They are volunteer-centered organizations, working in their local communities to raise awareness and provide essential and free education, advocacy, and support group programs.

From: Executive Director <agnes.m@wishak.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 11:35 AM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB69

Members of the Finance Committee

I would like to thank Representative Merrick and the DPS subcommittee for their work to fully fund victim services through the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Unfortunately, on April 1, victim services agencies across the state received a memo from CDVSA stating that the State of Alaska's FFY2021 victims of crime act (VOCA) funding would be reduced by \$4.1 million and that all victim services agencies should expect a 30-33% cut in their funding starting in FY2022 (memo attached).

WISH prioritizes direct services for our participants and this is reflected in our budget. 75% of WISH's budget supports staff. If we are to experience a 30-33% budget cut, WISH will lose, at a minimum, our shelter counselor who assisted 132 victims in 2020, our child advocate who supported 60 children of victims in 2020 and our legal advocate who provided services to 143 victims in 2020. Shelter staffing will be reduced to 1 position per shift. Most day services will be eliminated and, most importantly, WISH will not have sufficient staff to respond to sexual assault callouts, which staff did 42 times in 2020.

Ketchikan's economy has been severely impacted by the pandemic and the loss of multiple cruise ship seasons. Local government is facing budget shortfalls due to reduced sales tax revenues, consequently they do not have the resources to make up for the lost VOCA funding. I would like you to please consider allocating state general funds to cover the gap created by the VOCA shortfall.

Alaska continues to have some of the highest rates of sexual and domestic violence, including violence against children. Now is not the time to cut lifesaving services to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Thank you.

Agnes Moran

--

Agnes Moran, Executive Director
Women In Safe Homes
P.O. Box 6552
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Office: (907) 228-4085 or Cell: (907) 254-1264



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Public Safety

COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT
L. Diane Casto, Executive Director

150 3rd Street
PO Box 111200
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1200
Main: 907.465.4322
Fax: 907.465.4362

MEMORANDUM

TO: CDVSA Sub-Grantees

FROM: L. Diane Casto, Executive Director *L. Diane Casto*

DATE: April 1, 2021

RE: VOCA federal formula grant reduction

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If you have additional questions, please reach out to your Program Coordinator or me and we will give you the most complete and accurate response we can! Thank you for all you do!

From: Charles Duncan <asc751@yahoo.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 11:16 AM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: Testimony on operating budget, Alaska State Bank Advocate Charles E. Duncan

Attached in PDF format is Alaska State Bank Advocate Charles E. Duncan's testimony on the operating budget for the Alaska House Finance Committee.

Testimony to the House Finance Committee April 8, 2021

Charles E. Duncan
Alaska State Bank Advocate
asced751@yahoo.com

Over the past years since the 2008 financial crisis many billions of federal monetary policy stimulus dollars have been lost by the State of Alaska due to inaction by the Alaska Legislature. Wall Street asset prices continue to receive trillions of dollars in federal monetary bailout while state governments continue to fail in their ability to access federal monetary policy funds.

The core reason for this loss is a lack of state legislative discussions about the mechanisms necessary for accessing federal monetary policy. This same lack of deliberations and legislative time constraints are now causing new federal fiscal policy funds to be directed through the executive branch instead of the legislature, thus creating a conflict that has the potential to cause the loss of federal fiscal funds.

Over the years there have been endless wide-ranging articles, PowerPoint presentations and public discussions on the alaskastatebank.net website and the Alaska State Bank Advocate Facebook page about how a state bank can give the State of Alaska the ability to access federal monetary policy funds.

Even though this information has been easily available, the ideological opponents of financial reform continue to attempt to restrict all economic policy discussions to fiscal policy while excluding all honest discussions of monetary policy.

To bring this issue into current deliberations the following abbreviated list is identified to help explain how the Alaska State Bank can create the financial mechanisms necessary to access federal monetary policy as a new revenue source for the State of Alaska.

1. Use the "credit creation" of double entry bookkeeping to increase the United States money supply using the same accounting method as all commercial and investment banks.
2. Have the Federal Reserve provide the reserve requirements for interbank transaction clearing as is the standard procedure for all Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation banks.
3. Access very low federal interest rates and direct new leveraged credit and grants toward agriculture, industry, infrastructure, education, science, technology, healthcare, and business.
4. Act as a special depository for the United States Treasury and use the federally deposited funds for the capital requirements for creating new loans.
5. Act as a primary dealer to sell federal securities to the private market and Federal Reserve.
6. Securitize state, municipal, borough, port authority and private stocks, bonds, and loans for sale to the Federal Reserve for deposit into the State of Alaska general fund and for use in Alaska State Bank capital requirements.

This list as one feature of the in-depth discussions available on the Alaska State Bank websites will help clarify the importance of creating the Alaska State Bank designed to access billions of federal monetary dollars each year.

Improving Alaska's relationship with our federal government must become a priority. Fully accessing federal monetary and federal fiscal policy requires new action by the Alaska Legislature, including creating the Alaska State Bank.

From: Tiffany Mills <hopeprevention@aptalaska.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 12:32 PM
To: Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>
Cc: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Cuts to Victim Services- HB69 and HB71

Representatives Foster and Merrick:

Please accept the attached letter for the Committee's consideration.

Thank you,
Tiffany Mills

Tiffany Mills
HOPE Executive Director
hopeprevention@aptalaska.net

Ph. 907-826-2581
Fax 907-826-2584



HOPE

Helping Ourselves Prevent Emergencies

PO Box 145, Craig, AK 99921

907-826-2581

hopeprevention@aptalaska.net

To: Representative Neil Foster, Co-Chair
Representative Kelly Merrick, Co-Chair

From: Tiffany Mills, HOPE Executive Director

Re: HB69 Operating Budget and HB71 Mental Health Budget- Cuts to Victim Services

Cc: House Finance Committee

HOPE appreciates Governor Dunleavy's efforts in recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, in seeing the need for funding additional prosecutors in the Department of Law's budget, in responding to the backlog of sexual assault cases, and especially for his commitment to making "Alaska the safest state in the country, especially for our most vulnerable, our women and children." Our agency thanks Reps. Merrick and Foster, and the Department of Public Safety subcommittee for pushing to fully fund victim services through the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Unfortunately, last week we learned that funding for desperately needed advocacy and shelter services for victims and survivors is being cut federally.

On April 1st, community-based victim services agencies received a memo from CDVSA stating that Alaska's FFY2021 VOCA funds were to be reduced by \$4.1 million and that we should all expect to see a cut of at least 30% in our grant funding starting in FY22. The ones who suffer from these cuts will be the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. HOPE provides critical services and resources on Prince of Wales Island. If we lose 30% of our funding, we will have to make some difficult choices, including possible reduction in advocacy and legal services to victims, suspending our prevention efforts in the 12 communities on the Island, and/or cutting staff availability and office hours. These cuts will be devastating for survivors, victims, their families, and our community efforts to build trust and reliability with those in need. In 2020, HOPE provided domestic violence advocacy and resources for 69 residents and sexual assault advocacy and resources for 4 residents.

We believe you need to know what is happening now in victim services, because we need an immediate solution. Please consider allocating state general funds to close the gap in resources created by the VOCA shortfall. Alaska has some of the highest rates of sexual and domestic violence, including violence against children. Cutting lifesaving services to victims and survivors now would have devastating effects on Alaska's public safety.

Thank you,

Tiffany Mills
Executive Director

From: Schoonover, Bev K (HSS) <bev.schoonover@alaska.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 1:15 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Cc: Senate Finance <Finance.Calendar@akleg.gov>

Subject: ABADA AMHB LOC

Good afternoon. On behalf of the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and the Alaska Mental Health Board, please find a letter of comment attached regarding the proposed FY22 Operating and Mental Health Budgets (HB 69, HB 71).

Please reach out if you have any questions and thank you for your consideration.

Beverly Schoonover

Executive Director

Alaska Mental Health Board/Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse/ Statewide Suicide Prevention Council

Office: 907-465-5114

Business Cell: 907-419-7421



April 8, 2021

To: Members of the House Finance Committee
State Capitol Building
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: FY22 Operating and Mental Health Budgets (HB 69, HB 71)

The joint mission of the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ABADA) and the Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB) is to advocate for programs and services that promote healthy, independent, productive Alaskans. ABADA-AMHB are statutorily charged with advising, planning, and coordinating behavioral health services and programs funded by the State of Alaska.

The following is an overview of budget items impacting Alaskans with behavioral health disorders in the FY22 Operating and Mental Health Budgets:

- **Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery (BHTR) Grants.** +\$1.25 million in general funds and Marijuana Education and Treatment (MET) funds to BHTR grants. These grants allow for treatment services to be delivered to Alaskans not covered by Medicaid or private insurance, ensuring that providers can continue to provide timely access to critical behavioral health services.
- **Frontline Social Workers.** +\$3.4 million of Reducing Recidivism funds, in addition to the level of funding allocated in FY21, to be distributed through tribal organizations participating in the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact. This funding is critical to increase the capacity of frontline social workers to address the special needs of Alaskan families and children who experience trauma, domestic violence, addiction, and other behavioral health disorders.
- **Medicaid Health Coverage.** Maintains \$35 million general funds for Medicaid in FY22 and asks the Department of Health and Social Services to work with stakeholders over the next year to identify efficiencies for FY23.
- **Sobering Centers.** Maintains \$200,000 general fund dollars for sobering centers, which provide crisis care for Alaskans who are incapacitated from alcohol and drug misuse. These centers reduce the need for police, courts, emergency rooms, and jails. Without sobering centers, more Alaskans will be at risk of hypothermia, becoming victimized, or causing harm.
- **Public Assistance Field Services.** +\$2.3 million general funds and federal funds for 33 positions to maintain sufficient capacity to process public assistance applications for timely access to supports and services for Alaskans in need. Stakeholders report wait times for processing applications can be up to 8 weeks, resulting in additional hardship for individuals and families.
- **Office of Children's Services (OCS).** +\$1.22 million general funds for frontline worker retention efforts. Intent language directs DHSS to employ a behavioral health clinician "whose sole responsibility is preventing and addressing trauma among OCS employees related to their casework." Retention strategies are critical to reducing staff turnover and increasing the quality of care and services provided by OCS.

- **Therapeutic Courts.** +\$488,400 proposed general fund increment to expand oversight and operations and improve the court's ability to serve Alaskans with mental illness, substance use disorders, and other disabilities. Therapeutic Courts offer case management, access to treatment and recovery support, housing and employment assistance, peer support, and more. Stakeholders report that therapeutic courts improves stability, public safety, and reduced recidivism in the community.
- **Civil Legal Services Fund.** Maintains \$450,000 general funds for grants to the Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC), who provides legal services to vulnerable Alaskans, needing assistance to keep their homes, access healthcare, food, and/or protection against abuse. ALSC helps clients resolve problems before they escalate, with 83% of cases resolving without going to court and reducing the burden on the court system.
- **Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API).** A proposed \$6 million funding source change from state funding to Mental Health Trust Reserve (MHTRes) funds was not recommended or approved by the Alaska Mental Health Trust board of trustees. This funding supports services for patients unable to pay, forensic restoration, and acute inpatient care to people with mental illness, substance use disorders, intellectual-developmental disabilities, and other disabilities across the lifespan. The Boards support the use of general funds or other fund sources (not Trust Reserve funds) for API.
- **Alaska Mental Health Trust Reserve Funds.** The proposed FY22 budget replaces board of trustee-approved general fund recommendations with \$4.29 million in Trust Budget Reserves. An overdraw on the Trust's Reserves could have negative impacts on current and future spending and support for Alaska Mental Health Trust beneficiaries. The Boards support the use of general funds or other fund sources (not Trust Reserve funds).

The Boards support the efforts of the Alaska State Legislature to thoroughly evaluate the proposed FY22 budget for its impacts to Alaskans with mental illness and substance use disorders, their families, providers of services, and community members. As advocates for "smart spending" we ask legislators to consider the cost benefits of providing community resources that reduce the need for more expensive institutional care such as emergency rooms, law enforcement, child protection services, psychiatric hospitals, courts, and prisons.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to work for the people of Alaska.

Sincerely,



Sharon Clark
AMHB Chair



Renee Schofield
ABADA Chair

From: Terri Walker [<mailto:twalker@nwarctic.org>]
Sent: Thursday, April 08, 2021 12:58 PM
To: John Walsh
Subject: HB 69 to send to legislatures

John,

See attached and thank you for getting this to our legislatures

Terri Walker, Aviññaq
Superintendent
NWABSD
(907) 442-1802





NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ambler · Buckland · Deering · Kiana · Kivalina · Kobuk · Kotzebue · Noatak · Noorvik · Selawik · Shungnak
PO Box 51 · Kotzebue, Alaska 99752 · Phone (907) 442-1800

April 8, 2021

RE: HB 69 FY 22 Operating Budget

Members of the House Finance Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB69-FY2022 Operating Budget. My name is Terri Walker, Superintendent of the Northwest Arctic Borough School District. My Inupiaq name is Aviññaq. I was raised in Buckland, Alaska, and am a lifelong resident of the region.

Our school district serves approximately 1,980 students across 11-communities in an area the size of the State of West Virginia. Over 95% of our students are Alaskan Native, specifically, Inupiaq.

2020 has been a challenging year for all, and we are now heading towards better days. Vaccination rates are steadily moving up in our district, and a majority of our schools are operating in “green”, full in-person learning.

I want to take this time to focus your attention on the following budget priorities:

Foundation formula – we are in support of stable education school funding.

1. The cost of living here in our region puts undue pressure on our budgets, and it is critical that we at least maintain the current BSA of \$5,930. Any additional funding for school operations is welcome, and you have our support should opportunities present themselves as you work through the budget.
1. **Pre-K funding** – early education is critical to the success of our students. Your support for these programs in the FY2022 operating budget is greatly appreciated.

Residential Dormitory costs – Our district operates the Star of the North Magnet School in Kotzebue, utilizing a 40-bed dormitory to house out-of-town students.

1. Due to Covid-19, our October bed-count was limited. However, with the improved conditions, we are now seeing students return and expect this to continue throughout the remainder of this school year. We are requesting the Legislature to allow a “true-up” to capture those foregone residential dormitory funds lost due to a low bed count in October. We are requesting a supplemental appropriation for full funding of \$684,360.00 for the current fiscal year.
1. **Capital Budget** – Our district operates the Alaska Technical Center, where post-secondary students can further their career training needs. We are seeing an increase in adult students with children that need housing while attending the AK Technical Center. Securing funding for a 6-plex adult family housing complex is a high priority for the district. This is a job-ready project with a complete design and real property secured. We are requesting \$3.0 million for this project.
1. Finally, our board wanted to express that the **Power Cost Equalization (PCE)** is the most important program for our residents. We are in full support of maintaining stable funding in the FY2022 budget and beyond.

Best Regards

Terri Walker, NWABSD Superintendent

MISSION: To provide a learning environment that inspires and challenges students and employees to excel
VISION: To graduate all students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for a successful future

From: Carmen Lowry <clowry@andvsa.org>

Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 2:26 PM

To: Rep. Kelly Merrick <Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>

Cc: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: ANDVSA Testimony for House Finance Committee 04.08.2021

Please see attached. I am online and waiting to testify when and if there is an opportunity. Thank you.
Carmen

Carmen Lowry, PhD

Executive Director

Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

907.957.2542

130 Seward St., Suite 214

Juneau, Alaska 99801

www.andvsa.org



Good afternoon, Co-Chairs and Members of the House Finance Committee. My name is Carmen Lowry, and I am the Executive Director of the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. ANDVSA is a 23-member based organization that provides a range of life-saving services to victims, survivors, and community members across the state. I share an urgent message with you today:

We are facing an abrupt and unexpected 6-million-dollar reduction in grant funds.

On April 1, 35 sub-grantees who provide victim services received a memo from the Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (CDVSA) stating that all sub-grantees should expect a minimum 30% reduction in their grants starting in FY22 due to a reduction in federal VOCA funds allocated to the State.

What does this type of cut look like?

I have sent to Committee members a table outlining specific agencies, communities, and the expected cuts. But to highlight:

- Consider Anchorage and the community impact if AWAIC, STAR, Alaska Behavioral Health, Victims for Justice, and Providence Alaska Medical Center experience a \$1 million cut.
- Rural communities are especially vulnerable – in Dillingham, SAFE and the BBAHC anticipate a \$317,000 reduction.

Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, STAR | Bethel TWC | Cordova CFRC | Craig HOPE | Dillingham SAFE | Fairbanks IAC
Haines Becky's Place | Homer SPHH | Juneau AWARE | Kenai LeeShore Center | Ketchikan WISH
Kodiak KWRCC | Kotzebue MFCC | Nome BSWG | Petersburg WAVE | Seward SeaView Community Services
Sitka SAFV | Unalaska USAFV | Utqiagvik AWIC | Valdez AVV

- TWC and Emmonak Women's Shelters - programs that serve communities in the YK Delta are facing a \$624,780 reduction.

I recently viewed the Governor's video where he recognized April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. We echo his call to "make Alaska the safest state in the country, especially for our most vulnerable, our women and children."

A six million dollar cut in grants to serve victims will not help us achieve this vision.

We have consistently provided life-saving services during the pandemic. Now is not the time to cut services to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Please prioritize the safety and well-being of victim-survivors and allocate state general funds to cover these cuts.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and thank you for your work.

Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, STAR | Bethel TWC | Cordova CFRC | Craig HOPE | Dillingham SAFE | Fairbanks IAC
Haines Becky's Place | Homer SPHH | Juneau AWARE | Kenai LeeShore Center | Ketchikan WISH
Kodiak KWRCC | Kotzebue MFCC | Nome BSWG | Petersburg WAVE | Seward SeaView Community Services
Sitka SAFV | Unalaska USAFV | Utqiagvik AWIC | Valdez AVV

Impact of CDVSA Proposed 30% cut for victim service agencies for FY2022

As Proposed by CDVSA:

- 30% cut for DV/SA and other victims of crime services, including shelter: \$5,026,062
- 30% cut for enhanced legal services for DV/SA and other victims of crime: \$225,000
- 30% cut for enhanced children's mental health services: \$299,418
- 30% cut for Child Advocacy Centers: \$376,085

A total proposed cut to DV/SA and other victims of crime services, enhanced legal services, Child Advocacy Centers, and mental health services for children: **\$5,926,565.00**

Sub-Grantee	FY21 Grant Award	30% cut	FY22 Grant Award
Alaska Behavioral Health – statewide Mental health services for children	\$127,462	\$38,239	\$89,223
Alaska Family Services – Mat-Su DV/SA victim services	\$708,962	\$212,689	\$496,273
ANDVSA – statewide Legal services with key partners ALSC, AIJ, and ANJC DV/SA and other crimes	\$568,438	\$170,532	\$397,906
AVV – Valdez DV/SA victim services including shelter	\$431,237	\$123,372	\$307,865
AWAIC – Anchorage DV/SA victim services including shelter	\$1,787,277	\$536,183	\$1,251,094
AWARE – Juneau DV/SA victim services and legal services	\$1,458,423	\$437,527	\$1,020,896

AWIC – Utqiagvik DV/SA victim services, including shelter	\$626,266	\$187,880	\$438,386
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation Child advocacy center	\$225,810	\$67,743	\$158,067
BSWG – Nome DV/SA victim services including shelter	\$583,920	\$175,176	\$408,744
Copper River Basin Child advocacy center	\$72,480	\$21,744	\$50,736
CCS – Matu-Su Valley and Chugiak Child advocacy center	\$161,768	\$48,530	\$113,238
CFRC – Cordova DV/SA victims services	\$243,745	\$73,123	\$170,622
EWS – Emmonak DV/SA victim services including shelter	\$437,732	\$131,320	\$306,412
HOPE – Prince of Wales DV/SA victims services	\$99,158	\$29,747	\$69,411
IAC – Fairbanks DV/SA victim services and legal services	\$1,577,657	\$473,297	\$1,104,360
Kenaitze Indian Tribe – Kenai Peninsula DV/SA victim services	\$184,765	\$55,429	\$129,336
KWRCC – Kodiak DV/SA victim services including shelter	\$717,293	\$215,188	\$502,105

LeeShore Center – Kenai DV/SA victim services including shelter; children’s mental health services	\$1,010,193	\$303,058	\$707,135
MFCC – Kotzebue DV/SA victim services including shelter; child advocacy center	\$484,708	\$145,412	\$339,296
Providence Alaska Medical Center – statewide Children’s mental health services	\$194,998	\$58,499	\$136,499
Resource Center for Parents and Children – Fairbanks Child advocacy center	\$154,440	\$46,332	\$108,108
SAFE – Dillingham DV/SA victim services including shelter	\$830,621	\$249,186	\$581,435
SAFV – Sitka DV/SA victim services including shelter	\$561,137	\$168,341	\$392,796
Seaview Community Services – Seward DV/SA victim services	\$142,682	\$42,805	\$99,877
SPHH – Homer DV/SA victim services including shelter; child advocacy center	\$775,301	\$232,590	\$542,711
STAR – Anchorage Sexual assault victim services; mental health services for children	\$1,452,022	\$435,607	\$1,016,415
Tanana Chiefs Conference – Fairbanks Mental health services for children	\$301,103	\$90,331	\$210,772
The Children’s Place – Wasilla Child advocacy center	\$202,803	\$60,841	\$141,962

TWC – Bethel DV/SA victim services including shelter, child advocacy center	\$1,644,875	\$493,462	\$1,151,413
USAFV – Unalaska DV/SA victim services including shelter	\$229,959	\$68,988	\$160,971
Victims for Justice – Anchorage and statewide Victim services for all victims of crime	\$344,270	\$103,281	\$240,989
VOAA – Anchorage Mental health services for children	\$146,250	\$43,875	\$102,375
WAVE – Petersburg DV/SA victim services	\$168,516	\$50,555	\$117,961
WISH – Ketchikan DV/SA victim services including shelter; mental health services for children	\$1,098,946	\$329,684	\$769,262

From: Joy Lyon <jlyon@aeyc-sea.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 3:56 PM
To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please increase funding for Pre-K this year

Greetings House Finance Committee members,

Please find the attached letter to thank you for maintaining stable funding for early learning programs, and urging you to increase funding for Pre-K programs this year by re-appropriating unspent funds in DEED.

Thanks!

Joy Lyon, M.A.
Executive Director
AEYC Southeast Alaska
907-789-1235 extension 106
jlyon@aeyc-sea.org
www.aeyc-sea.org

April 7, 2021

To: Alaska House Finance Committee
Regarding: Appropriations and Operating Budget

Dear Co-chairs and members of the committee,

Thank you for your hard work during this extraordinary year to keep Alaska strong and steady through these challenging times. In particular, thank you for holding stable funding for early learning programs such as Pre-K grants, Head Start, Infant Learning, Parents as Teachers, Best Beginnings Imagination Library, and child care supports for working families.

These are the programs that help parents navigate choppy waters during these rough seas. These are the programs that provide safe harbors and a light of hope to help parents cope. Now is the time to invest in our youngest citizens and keep families strong, healthy, and stable.

I urge you to approve the House Finance subcommittee on Department of Education and Early Development recommendation to re-appropriate \$5 million of unused funds toward Pre-K grants in the Department of Education and Early Development over the next two years.

- Pre-k education will help us reach the State Board of Education goal of all children reading at grade level by the end of 3rd grade.
- Brain development in the years prior to school entry builds the foundation for success in school, at work, and throughout life.
- A community with high levels of educational attainment is a community that is less vulnerable to poverty, unemployment, and crime.
- Reduced need for public spending on remedial education, criminal justice, and social support programs are key reasons why Pre-K is such a sensible investment.

With the federal relief funding coming to Alaska, I hope your committee will take a strong role in ensuring the State of Alaska is ready and prepared to make the most of this opportunity. **For example, it is expected that Alaska will receive over 80 million to improve** access and quality of programs, and boost Alaska's economy and workforce. Your work to ensure the funds are allocated quickly and equitably across the state is appreciated.

Thank you for your work to create a budget that offers a better future for all Alaskans, especially our youngest citizens.

Joy Lyon