



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Public Safety

James E. Cockrell, Commissioner

### COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

L. Diane Casto, Executive Director

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April 15, 2022

The Honorable Mike Shower  
Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee  
Alaska State Capitol Room 429  
Juneau AK 99801-1182  
[Senate.State.Affairs@akleg.gov](mailto:Senate.State.Affairs@akleg.gov)

The Honorable Lora Reinbold  
Vice-Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee  
Alaska State Capitol Room 427  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Subject: SB 188 CRIM PROCEDURE; CHANGE OF NAME

Dear Senator Shower and Senator Reinbold:

On Thursday, March 31, during our FY2022 Quarter 3 Board of Director's meeting, the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault voted to support SB 188. The Board reviewed SB 188 along with other critical pieces of legislation focused on issues related to domestic and sexual violence and voted to support the passage of this important legislation. SB 188 covers several critical revisions to Alaska's rules and procedures impacting victims of crime and perpetrators of those crimes including sexual assault.

SB 188 offers a number of changes to provide greater protection for victims of crime including changes to bail requirements and processes; allowing hearsay testimony at Grand Jury hearing to reduce trauma to victims; providing safeguards and parameters to ensure defendants who are filing to change their name must advise the court of a pending criminal case, to protect the defendant's victim(s); and return the Plain Error rules to its prior interpretation to protect both the defendant's rights and preserving the integrity of the conviction and the finality of the case for victims.

This bill provides a balance to support the rights of defendants and to protect the rights of victims of crime. CDVSA strongly supports SB 188 and encourages this committee and the legislative body to support, move and ultimately pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

L. Diane Casto, MPA  
Executive Director



Alaska's Council on  
Domestic Violence  
& Sexual Assault