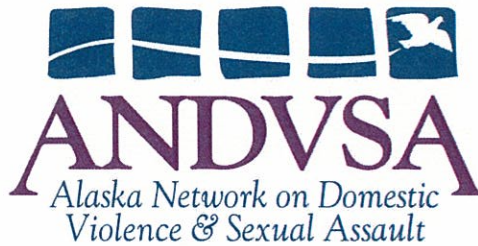


Main Office
130 Seward St #209
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: (907) 586-3650
Fax: (907) 463-4493
www.andvsa.org



Pro Bono Office
PO Box 6631
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Phone: (907) 747-7545
Fax: (907) 747-7547

April 2, 2012

Honorable Sean Parnell
P.O. Box 110001
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: HB 359 – Sex Crimes, Videotaped Testimony

Dear Governor Parnell:

On behalf of our eighteen member programs that provide direct services to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence in communities throughout Alaska, we are writing in support of HB 359 – Sex Crimes, Video Testimony.

The terminology changes from promoting prostitution to sex trafficking makes a profound policy statement that places focus for these crimes on the perpetrators and not the victims. Sex traffickers deliberately prey on the most vulnerable individuals and often homeless youth in our state. We applaud and appreciate attention to a victim-centered approach to addressing the crime of sex trafficking in Alaska.

We also support adding sex trafficking to our conspiracy laws, increasing the penalty for patronizing a prostitute when the prostitute is a minor and insuring that offenders are held accountable for the sexual exploitation of minors. This is a reasonable change in our laws and provides an affirmative defense to ensure that the true perpetrators are captured under this provision.

Sincerely,

Peggy Brown, Executive Director

cc: Lisa Mariotti, Policy Director

Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, STAR Barrow AWIC Bethel TWC Cordova CFRC Dillingham SAFE
Fairbanks IAC Homer SPHH Juneau AWARE Kenai LeeShore Center Ketchikan WISH Kodiak KWRCC
Kotzebue MFCC Nome BSWG Seward SCS Sitka SAFV Unalaska USAFV Valdez AVV.