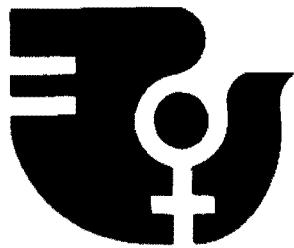


## **A FEW ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE REESTABLISHMENT, INCLUDE:**

1. Anchorage Assembly
2. Business and Professional Women - Alaska
3. Anchorage Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
4. STAR (Standing Together Against Rape)
5. YWCA
6. Business and Professional Women – North to the Future
7. Anchorage Women's Commission
8. National Association of Commission for Women
9. Girl Scouts Alaska
10. Arctic Business & Professional Women
11. NAACP
12. AARP
13. AWARE (Aiding Women in Abuse & Rape Emergencies)
14. Alaska Native Sisterhood
15. Business and Professional Women/Anchorage
16. Alaska Woman's Lobby

*Compiled by  
Sarah Davis' office*





Sha'a Kaa Atyábx'i Noowú  
DOVE COTTAGE  
A Place of Peace

## Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies

"Serving Juneau and Nine Southeastern Communities"

P.O. Box 20809 • Juneau, Alaska 99802-0809  
(907) 586-6623 (business)  
(907) 586-2479 (fax)  
(907) 586-1090 (crisis)  
1-800-478-1090 (toll free in state)  
E-mail: [info@awareak.org](mailto:info@awareak.org)

Senator Bettye Davis  
State Capitol, Room  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator,

I am writing this letter to Senator Davis on behalf of AWARE in support of SB53 – An act reestablishing the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women. Because of the staggering statistics for women in Alaska, this is a much needed bill that is long-overdue. Alaska continues to maintain the highest rates of sexual assault and domestic violence in the nation and historically women are more likely to be poorer than men. Poverty rates for unmarried female householders with children are particularly high and have consistently been two or three times as high as overall male and female poverty rates since 1996.

Survey data compiled by the American Community Survey shows that of 26,518 families in Alaska with a female head of household, 22.6 percent live below the poverty level. The gender wage gap persists in Alaska and across a wide spectrum of occupations and industries. In 2009, according to the Alaska Department of Labor, Alaskan women on average earned only 66.6% of what men earned. And, although more women than men in Alaska hold a bachelor's degree or higher, data shows that men's median annual earnings are higher in every education level. Alaskan women, in particular women of color, experience health care disparities and women living in rural Alaska have worse-than average disparities on access and utilization of services.

On behalf of AWARE staff, volunteers and the victims/survivors we serve, please accept my gratitude for your great support of this bill. We encourage your colleagues in the Alaska Legislature to join you to make the Alaska Women Commission a reality. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Saralyn Tabachnick  
Saralyn Tabachnick  
SKT



