

To: Members of the Alaska State Senate and House Finance Committee,

From: Hayley Patton

Re: HB263

May 1, 2026

I am writing to express my strong support for including Representative Schwanke's funding request in HB 263. This investment reflects a meaningful commitment to Alaska's future—one that strengthens communities by investing in the people who call this place home.

Alaska EXCEL creates important opportunities for young Alaskans, especially those from rural communities, to build practical skills, develop leadership, and pursue pathways to stable, purpose-driven careers. Programs like Alaska EXCEL are vital to cultivating a workforce that is not only skilled, but also deeply connected to the lands and communities they serve.

The program's impact is clear: 94% of Alaska EXCEL alumni remain in Alaska, and 70% continue to live and work in rural communities. These outcomes represent more than retention; they reflect long-term investment in the strength, stability, and resilience of Alaska's communities.

As someone who cares deeply about the future of our state, I see workforce development as closely tied to the health of our communities and landscapes. Supporting programs like Alaska EXCEL helps ensure that the next generation has both the opportunity and the capacity to contribute meaningfully where they live.

I respectfully encourage your support for the full funding request for Alaska EXCEL. Continued investment in this program will help equip young Alaskans with the skills, confidence, and connection to place needed to sustain thriving communities across Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hayley Patton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hayley Patton

Operations Manager

Kachemak Heritage Land Trust

315 Klondike Ave. Homer, Alaska 99603



Alaska Food Policy Council

PO BOX 173

Homer, AK 99603

907-756-3930

director@alaskafoodpolicycouncil.org

www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org

April 22, 2026

Dear Senate Finance Members,

The Alaska Food Policy Council (AFPC) is a nonprofit committed to building a healthier, more secure, and more self-reliant Alaska through strong food systems. Since 2010, we have worked with partners across the state to advance cross-sector solutions spanning farming, subsistence harvest, processing, distribution, nutrition access, food waste, and more.

We urge your support of the Alaska Farmers Market Association's (AFMA) budget request of \$750,000 for the successful Market Match program. We support and encourage the inclusion of these funds in the operating budget. This is Alaska's only statewide nutrition incentive program, matching federally-funded nutrition incentives like SNAP and WIC to help Alaskans purchase nutritious, Alaska Grown foods at farmers' markets, farm stands, and CSAs. It is a proven, efficient investment that strengthens both food security and Alaska's food producers.

This request builds on a successful pilot launched in 2022, with a \$500,000 legislative investment for its first five years. The results have been tremendous, with SNAP redemption at farmers markets increasing by 272%, rising from \$18,000 in 2022 to nearly \$67,000 in 2025. In the program's first two years, over \$80,000 in WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program benefits were redeemed. Together, this program directed nearly \$150,000 to Alaskan producers, supporting local businesses while improving food security with healthy food for families across the state. **Market Match delivers a strong return: it keeps food dollars in Alaska, increases farmer revenues, and expands access to fresh, nutritious food in communities statewide.**

We urge the Committee to include these funds in the operating budget, and continue investing in a program that advances food security, economic opportunity, and the health of Alaskans. Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to a healthier, more resilient Alaska.

Sincerely,

Robbi Mixon, Executive Director

Rachel Lord, Advocacy & Policy Director

Doniece Gott

From: Diana Johnson <akdianaj@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2026 2:55 PM
To: House Finance; Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Supporting schools

House and senate finance committees,

I am writing in support of school funding. I am aware that lawmakers are considering several avenues through which to fund schools this session. I appreciate all of those efforts and request that lawmakers advance whichever might survive the governor's veto pen.

Those of us with young children in Alaska right now are devastated to see our schools collapsing before our eyes. Please do everything you can to support Alaska's children and their education.

Diana Johnson
2613 Redwood St
Anchorage, AK
99508



With Spirit and Strength

April 28, 2026

Members of the Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Fuel Cost and Drinking Water Emergencies across Alaska

Dear Honorable Senators and Representatives:

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA) serves Tribal communities across the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands and has seen firsthand how escalating fuel costs, underfunded assistance programs, and climate-driven infrastructure failures are converging into a public safety crisis. Communities we serve rely entirely on delivered fuel and aging utility systems, making them especially vulnerable to price shocks, supply disruptions, and prolonged cold weather. As fuel prices continue to rise and delivery windows narrow, the risk to household safety, public health, and community stability has intensified.

APIA's management of the Tribal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) illustrates the inequities embedded in current funding structures. Due to an outdated State/Tribal LIHEAP allocation agreement, and despite our best efforts to renegotiate over the past two years with the State of Alaska, our program received only 58% of the funding necessary to provide benefits equivalent to the State-administered heating assistance program. As a result, Alaska Native households in our region were eligible to receive approximately 40% less home heating fuel than non-Native households with the same income level living in the same communities. This disparity leaves Tribal families disproportionately exposed to extreme winter conditions and rising fuel costs through no fault of their own.

These funding gaps have real and immediate consequences. In Nelson Lagoon, freezing temperatures damaged the community's water transfer line, leaving residents without reliable access to safe drinking water or sanitation services and forcing the Tribe to declare a local disaster emergency. APIA mobilized \$28,500 in emergency funds and chartered two flights to deliver just over 1,000 gallons of drinking water and sanitation supplies. The total cost exceeded \$50,000. Despite these efforts, significant contributions from partner programs, and generous discounts from

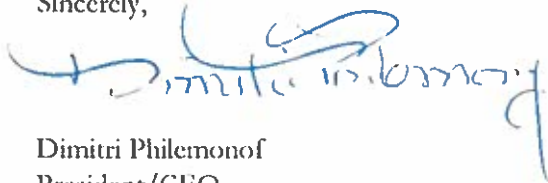
the air carrier, this response met only 66% of the community's drinking water needs for a single month, underscoring how quickly emergencies in remote communities overwhelm available resources.

APIA requests the Legislature to consider simple actions to address the urgent challenges facing rural and Tribal communities by:

- **Renegotiating State/Tribal LIHEAP allocation agreements** to ensure funding reflects actual need and to allow Tribes to provide their own data to justify allocation size;
- **Investing additional state resources in heating assistance**, including reinstating the Alaska Heating Assistance Program (AKHAP) which expanded heating assistance services when federal LIHEAP funds were insufficient; and
- **Increasing the Bulk Fuel Revolving Loan Program cap** and incorporating interest relief or subsidies to reflect current fuel prices and fiscal realities.

Tribal communities are doing everything within their means to respond to these compounding crises, but local action alone is not sufficient. Without timely and targeted state investment, inequities will widen, and emergency situations will become more frequent and more costly to resolve. APIA respectfully requests your leadership to ensure Alaska's Tribal communities receive equitable support and the resources necessary to protect health, safety, and basic services.

Sincerely,



Dimitri Philemonof
President/CEO

April 30, 2026

To: Members of the Alaska Senate and House Finance Committee
Re: Support for Alaska EXCEL Funding (HB 263)

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Kelly Marciales, and I am writing as an individual, and a resident of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, to express my strong support for funding Alaska EXCEL through HB 263.

As a long-time resident of the Mat-Su, I care about the future of our community and opportunities young people will have growing up here. I am a parent of three children in the Mat-Su Borough School District, and like many families, I am thinking about what kind of future will be available to them and to their peers in Alaska.

Programs like Alaska EXCEL offer something I believe is urgently needed: meaningful pathways for young people to develop leadership skills, gain hands-on experience, and see a future for themselves in our state. At a time when workforce shortages affect nearly every sector across Alaska, investing in youth development is essential.

I am encouraged by the way Alaska EXCEL supports young people in building confidence, practical skills, and a sense of purpose. These are foundational for a strong workforce and resilient communities. When young people are given the tools to lead and work, and to contribute positively to the community, they are more likely to stay, invest, and build their lives here.

As a parent, I want all children in our region to have access to programs that expand their sense of possibility. As a resident, I want to see our communities thrive with a locally grown workforce who understand Alaska and are committed to our shared future.

Funding Alaska EXCEL is an investment in Alaska's next generation. It is an investment in leadership, workforce development, and the long-term vitality of our state.

I respectfully urge you to support the full funding request for Alaska EXCEL in HB 263.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Kelly Marciales
Matanuska-Susitna Borough Resident



ALASKA PUBLIC INTEREST ◆ RESEARCH GROUP

Date: April 29, 2026

Re: Fuel Cost and Drinking Water Emergencies across Alaska

Dear Members of the Alaska State House and Senate Finance, Resources, Energy and Community & Regional Affairs committees and other Alaska legislators,

Since last year, the Alaska Public Interest Research Group (AKPIRG) has been convening conversations with community members, representatives and stakeholders from communities across Alaska who are deeply concerned about the ongoing fuel price and drinking water emergencies in rural Alaska - particularly in remote Alaska Native communities off the road system. This letter represents the collaborative effort of this group as a whole.

Our communities are experiencing an unprecedented spike in fuel prices. Unlike areas along the road system, rural communities rely on delivered fuel and are especially vulnerable to supply disruptions. In Bethel, fuel prices have risen dramatically - from an index price of \$1.92/gallon and \$6.72/gallon at the pump to an index price of \$5.42/gallon today. [Projections suggest](#) we are likely to see prices above \$15/gallon at the pump in Bethel very soon and as high as \$20 - \$25 per gallon in surrounding communities. A global fuel shortage is already [affecting suppliers' ability to access fuel](#), and prices are expected to continue rising.

At the same time, critical assistance programs like the Tribal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), are running out of resources. The Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Region reports that only \$160,000 remains in their allotment of the heating assistance program - far below the typical \$1 million available at this point in the year. There is serious concern that funding will not last until the next funding cycle.

Not all rural residents have equal access to this support. The Tribal heating assistance program in the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region received only 58% of the funding needed to match the benefits available through the state-run heating assistance program. As a result, Alaska Native households in this service area received 40% less home heating fuel than their non-Native neighbors - despite living in the same communities and meeting the same income eligibility standards. This disparity will leave Tribal families disproportionately vulnerable to the higher costs of heating fuel that is anticipated for the upcoming winter.

The unusually extended cold season has further intensified this crisis. After a particularly cold winter, fuel supplies are critically low. Many communities rely on limited spring barge deliveries to resupply, often with little control over timing and high upfront costs. Most participate in the state's Bulk Fuel Revolving Loan Program, which provides low-interest loans to cover these purchases, but the current \$750,000 cap per community is no longer sufficient given recent fuel price spikes. This shortfall is creating significant fiscal strain and increasing the risk of supply shortages, while driving up costs for residents and local utilities.

Increased fuel prices are exacerbating preexisting challenges to ensure residents have access to reliable utility services. Due to a prolonged winter, communities are facing broken water pipes, failing water systems, extended heating needs and shortening delivery windows. Some communities have run completely out of drinking water and have been forced to fly in emergency supplies – a drastic measure made more costly by soaring jet fuel prices.

One example is the local disaster declared by the Native Village of Nelson Lagoon (Resolution No. 26-02) after freezing temperatures severely damaged the community's water transfer line. The damage left residents without reliable access to safe drinking water or sanitation services, forcing an emergency declaration. In response, the Aleutian Pribilof Region mobilized \$28,500 in emergency funding and chartered two flights to deliver over 1,000 gallons of drinking water along with essential household sanitation supplies. Even with significant contributions from other programs and generous discounts from the air carrier, the charters cost more than \$50,000 and only met approximately 66% of the community's drinking water needs for 30 days.

Conditions in several communities in the Bering Strait Region in Northwest Alaska illustrate the severity of the crisis: (reported by Kawarek, Inc.)

- Brevig Mission: No heating fuel available; residents are resorting to using electricity which will lead to unaffordable power bills. Ongoing water line repairs; boil water notice.
- Teller: Recently ran out of heating fuel; residents using electricity. Limited food availability in the local store, which is where the community mainly relies on.
- Diomed: On a boil water notice while replacing a water system filter.
- Gambell: Has submitted an economic disaster declaration due to anticipated fuel cost increases; also under a boil water notice.
- Koyuk: Frozen water lines on the city's best water loop have left portions of the community without potable water or sanitation requiring hauling water or bottled water requests; boil water notice in effect.
- Shaktoolik: Boil water notice. Issues with raw water intake caused them to run their tank empty; main line frozen. Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC) sent 4 pallets of bottled water; Bering Strait School District (BSSD) sent water for the school: 63 cases of 6-gallon jugs and 49 cases of bottled water.
- Unalakleet: Electrical issues have caused a water shortage and reduced water usage notice.

- St. Michael: Critically low water supply. Boil water notice; main water line has been frozen since 4/6/26. NSHC has sent 4 pallets of water in 2 shipments; limited access to water storage tank; temporarily installing community potable water point.
- Wales: Water intake froze in October of 2025; only 4 feet of water remaining in their tank as of 4/20/26. Lower consumption of water recommended to the community until annual thawing of the intake pipe.

These issues persist across Alaska as seen by the immediate fuel supply and water supply issues for communities in the Lake and Peninsula Borough. On Lake Iliamna, Igiugig had fuel flown in April at \$12/gallon. Residents in Igiugig are now paying as much as \$14/gallon for heating oil - a significant price increase across the community. Down the coast, Perryville is arranging for fuel delivery via barge next month, and diesel was quoted at nearly \$3/gallon more than the same time last year. Perryville has also been on a boil water notice since mid-March due to pressure loss in their water system from a particularly deep and long freeze up, and the State flew treated water out to the community as an emergency measure. A boil water notice was also issued in nearby Chignik Bay on April 23 for similar issues with low pressure in their water system.

Additional communities continue to be added to this list as conditions evolve. Regional emergency preparedness teams, including Kawerak, Inc., are working closely with the state to coordinate response efforts, but resources are limited. There is an intensifying concern about what this will mean for the coming winter, as households already struggling may be pushed beyond their limits. Without swift intervention, the consequences will continue to escalate.

Federal agencies are attempting to respond. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has reached out to Alaska Native Tribal organizations to collect data on drinking water and heating needs in order to request additional funding. We appreciate the BIA's efforts to gather data and bring attention to this crisis. However, the urgency of the situation demands faster action. Communities cannot wait for long federal timelines while essential services fail.

While several proposed state legislation measures - such as [HB 196](#), strengthening the Renewable Energy Fund and [HB 247](#), the creation of Climate Change Response Fund, may help address these challenges, they are largely long-term solutions. We support these initiatives - however, what is needed now is immediate, targeted relief alongside a clear and coordinated funding strategy to address both urgent and systemic issues.

We urge lawmakers to act immediately by:

- **Raising the Bulk Fuel Revolving Loan Program cap** managed by the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, expanding the eligibility, and **incorporating energy relief subsidies** within the program to support fuel purchases, including **offering a 0% interest rate.**

- **Prioritizing the renegotiation of State/Tribal LIHEAP allocation agreements**, to allow Tribal organizations administering the program to receive funding that actually reflects current levels of need. Allow Tribes to provide their own data to justify allocation amounts.
- **Investing state funds in heating assistance programs and establish a State-level reallocation process for LIHEAP** that allows unused State funding to be redistributed to underserved or high-needs regions. This approach would keep funds in Alaska and ensure they reach households in need, rather than being returned unused. (See our other recommendations for LIHEAP regulatory changes [here](#).)
- **Reinstating the Alaska Heating Assistance Program (AKHAP)** by passing the proposed \$17.5 million allocation for heating assistance in the state budget.

The overlapping risks of fuel supply instability, climate-driven infrastructure failures, and existing economic vulnerabilities are creating a level of energy insecurity that many communities have never faced before. Communities are doing what they can to prepare, from conserving resources to coordinating emergency response efforts. However, local action alone is not enough. Additional support is urgently needed - from increased funding and emergency response coordination to sustained advocacy and engagement from state and federal leaders.

We respectfully urge you to take immediate action to support these communities.

Sincerely,

June Okada
Energy Lead, AKPIRG

Nathan Hill
Lake and Peninsula Borough Manager

Melanie Bahnke
CEO, Kawarek, Inc.

Tom Atkinson
General Manager/CEO, Kotzebue Electric Association

Amanda Bremner, X'oos Geik
Deputy Director, Native Movement

Doniece Gott

From: Keeley Olson <kolson@staralaska.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 2:09 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Thank you!

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for revising the amount of funds in the Department of Public Safety CDVSA grants line and legal services. We appreciate your hard work and for supporting victims of crime.

Kindly,

Keeley Olson
Executive Director
Standing Together Against Rape (**STAR**)
1057 W. Fireweed Lane | Suite 230 | Anchorage, AK 99503



Office Line | 907.276.7279
24 Hour Crisis Line | Relay Friendly | 907.276.7273
Fax | 907.278.9983
kolson@staralaska.org
www.staralaska.com

STAR's mission is to prevent sexual trauma and provide comprehensive, collaborative crisis intervention, advocacy and support to victims/survivors, their families and our communities.

This email, including attachments, is intended for the use of the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain CONFIDENTIAL or privileged information that is protected by federal and state regulation. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient or his or her agent, the reader is notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this email is prohibited. If you think you have received this email in error, please advise the sender by reply email.

Doniece Gott

From: Natalie Wojcik <nwojcik@safv.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 11:42 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Support for CDVSA Grants and Legal Services Funding

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I'm writing to urge you to restore funding for the Department of Public Safety CDVSA grants line and the legal services line to the House-approved levels of \$1.2 million and \$500,000, respectively.

After 9 years of flat funding, the reality on the ground has changed dramatically. The cost of utilities, food, and other basic needs has gone way up, while our resources have not kept pace. As a result, we have already had to make difficult cuts including cutting our children's program—leaving important needs unmet.

These funds are critical to ensuring that victim services remain accessible and responsive across Alaska. Without increased support, services like emergency shelter, legal advocacy, and crisis response will continue to be strained or reduced at a time when they are needed most.

Victim services should not be reduced to a negotiating point in the conference committee process, they are fundamental to community safety and well-being. Our agencies across the state play important roles in our communities, serving the most vulnerable members of our communities.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued service to Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Natalie Wojcik
she/her/hers
Executive Director
Sitkans Against Family Violence (SAFV)
(907) 747-3491 | nwojcik@safv.org
Visit our [website](#) | Like us on [Facebook](#)



Doniece Gott

From: M. Lynn Crane <usafved@arctic.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 12:16 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: CDVSA Victim Services & Legal Services Funding

Dear Honorable Members of the AK Senate Finance Committee:

Please consider revising the amount of funds in the Department of Public Safety CDVSA grants line and legal services line increasing the amounts back to the House numbers (\$1.2 million in the CDVSA grants line and \$500,000 in the legal services line). Victim services should not have to be budget negotiating points in conference committee. Like the people we serve, USAFV is facing rising costs of fuel oil, food, utilities, and other basic needs. These kinds of pressures make our services even more important for people in our community and region. We know that you care about those that have survived domestic and/or sexual assault, or other types of interpersonal violence. Please keep them in mind as you make these difficult decisions!

Thank you for all your work on behalf of Alaskans.

Sincerely,

~ Lynn (she/her/hers)

!!! TRUST WOMEN !!!

M. Lynn Crane, Executive Director

Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence (USAFV)

USAFV Mission Statement: Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence provides safety, education, and advocacy services to empower people and create a culture of nonviolence and respect. USAFV is located on the traditional land of the Unangan people, and we strive to honor our elders, both past and present.

If you need to talk with someone, you can call USAFV anytime at 907-581-1500. You can also text USAFV from 8 am to 11 pm daily at 359-1500 or 907-359-1500. You are not alone!

USAFV ~ PO Box 36 ~ Unalaska, AK 99685

Office 907-581-3310 ~ Fax 907-581-4568 ~ 24-Hour Crisis Line 907-581-1500

Toll-Free 24-Hour Crisis Line 1-800-478-7238 ~ Crisis Text Line (8 am to 11 pm daily) 907-359-1500

Doniece Gott

From: Rebecca Shields <rebecca.director@kwrcc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 1:32 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: CDVSA Grant lines and Legal Services

Dear Senate Finance Committee members,

I am Rebecca Shields, the Executive Director of the Kodiak Women's Resource and Crisis Center in Kodiak Alaska.

I am writing you today to ask you to please reconsider revising the amount of funds in the Department of Public Safety CDVSA grants line and legal services line increasing the amounts back to the House numbers (1.2 million in the CDVSA grants line and \$500,000 in the legal services line).

Adding this funding to the CDVSA funding line is not an increase. DV/SA programs have been working with flat funding for several years now. And working against a 24% inflation rate makes each year more difficult to maintain our current standard of services to Alaska victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Without the 1.2 million increase to CDVSA grant lines, in FY27 KWRCC will be forced to decrease our staffing by 1.5 full time positions. Running a 25 bed Shelter that operates 24/7 with the complexities of the safety issues facing our clients requires having the trained advocates that can be there for them and with them to provide best chance for positive outcomes for victims as well as maintain safety in our Shelter group living environment. It is intense work. But at KWRCC we are passionate about the mission and meeting the need in our community.

Thank you to each of you for the work that you do. Your concern for the high rates of domestic and sexual assault across Alaska is evident. Please help us to support the victims of these crimes by putting back the 1.2 million in CDVSA grant lines, and the \$500,000 back into legal services.

Thank you!

Rebecca Shields
Executive Director
Kodiak Women's Resource and Crisis Center
(907)486-6171 (office)
(907)539-2492 (direct line)

Doniece Gott

From: sart@kwrcc.org
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 2:39 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: sart@kwrcc.org
Subject: CDVSA grant funds

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am taken this opportunity to email you about the CDVSA grants line and legal services line.

Please consider revising the amount of funds in the Department of Public Safety CDVSA grants line and legal services line increasing the amounts back to the House numbers (\$1.2 million in the CDVSA grants line and \$500,000 in the legal services line). Victim services should not have to be budget negotiating points in conference committee.

If this is not revised we are looking at loosing 1.5 more staff members and we are down staff already. With the rising cost of oil, food, utilities, and basic needs, I am not sure how we will be able to sustain services with these cuts. Back in February the conversation included the funds we needed.

I know you care and support services for victims and I ask you to act on that care.

Thank you all for your hard work.

Penny Lampl

SART & Shelter Coordinator
Kodiak Women's Resource and Crisis Center
422 Hillside Drive
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
(907)486-6171
(907)486-4264 fax
SART@kwrcc.org
www.kwrcc.org



Doniece Gott

From: hopeprevention@aptalaska.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 3:47 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: CDVSA and Legal Services- thank you!

Good Afternoon Committee Members,
Thank you from everyone involved in victim services in Alaska. We appreciate your consideration in keeping the House amounts of \$1.2 million and \$500k in the CDVSA Grants and Legal Services line items in the budget! Your support for the work we do to help victims of domestic violence and sexual assault become survivors means so much.

Grateful to you all,

Tiffany Mills

Executive Director, HOPE
Helping Ourselves Prevent Emergencies
hopeprevention@aptalaska.net
907-826-2581





Alaska Forum
PO Box 212409
Anchorage, AK 99521-2409
Main Line: (907) 331-0271

April 28, 2026

Senator Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair
Senator Donald Olson, Co-Chair
Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair
Alaska State Legislature - Senate Finance Committee
State Capitol Room 532
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Information Regarding STEP-Supported Training, Rural Workforce Access, and Community Emergency Response Capacity

Dear Senator Hoffman, Senator Olson, Senator Stedman, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of Alaska Forum, thank you for the opportunity to provide information regarding the role of the State Training and Employment Program (STEP) in supporting workforce training, rural training access, and community readiness across Alaska.

Alaska Forum is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting thriving communities through communication, education, and collaboration. For more than two decades, Alaska Forum has delivered training, technical assistance, and community-based programs serving rural, urban, and Alaska Native communities across the state. Our workforce development programs focus on practical, industry-aligned training that helps Alaskans obtain credentials, strengthen local capacity, and connect to employment and community service opportunities.

We understand the Committee is reviewing legislation related to STEP funding at the same time Alaska is updating its broader workforce development strategy through the Alaska Workforce Future Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act State Plan Modification for Program Years 2026–2027. Alaska Forum’s experience with STEP-supported training aligns closely with the workforce priorities identified in that public notice, including career pathways, employer-responsive training, services for individuals with barriers to employment, coordination among workforce and community partners, and measurable outcomes. Our purpose in submitting this letter is to share direct program experience about how STEP functions on the ground as a practical tool for delivering those workforce priorities in Alaska communities.

STEP funding has played an important role in helping Alaska Forum expand access to short-term, practical training for Alaskans who may otherwise face significant barriers due to geography, travel costs, limited local training availability, or community disruption. These barriers are especially acute in rural and remote communities, many of which are accessible only by small plane or boat and where outside emergency response may be delayed. Alaska Forum’s Brownfields Job Training work plan notes that rural Alaska communities face disproportionate environmental risk, limited emergency response capacity, high transportation costs, and restricted access to workforce training.

A recent example is Alaska Forum's Community Emergency Response Team training, delivered with supporting funds from both STEP and the EPA Brownfields Job Training Program. This training has been particularly meaningful for participants from communities impacted by ex-Typhoon Halong. For individuals, families, and communities affected by disaster, Community Emergency Response Team training provides more than a classroom credential. It gives participants practical knowledge in preparedness, disaster safety, basic emergency response, team organization, and community support.

In rural Alaska, where local residents are often the first people available to help one another, this type of training strengthens readiness, confidence, and local response capacity. It also supports longer-term workforce pathways in emergency response, environmental response, public safety, community infrastructure, and related occupations. These outcomes are especially important as communities recover from disaster impacts while also preparing for future emergencies.

The value of this training is consistent with Alaska Forum's broader STEP and Brownfields Job Training model. Alaska Forum's FY27 STEP application proposes to train approximately 100 participants through industry-aligned credentials such as HAZWOPER, CPR/First Aid, confined space, Alaska Landfill Operator Training, Community Emergency Response Team training, and related safety, emergency response, environmental, and infrastructure training. These trainings are designed to help unemployed, underemployed, and incumbent workers obtain, retain, or advance in employment while also building community-based capacity in places where trained local responders and workers are urgently needed.

STEP also helps Alaska Forum coordinate funding sources responsibly. In the Community Emergency Response Team training example, STEP support and EPA Brownfields Job Training support worked together to expand access while maintaining distinct program purposes. STEP helped support workforce training access and participant-facing services, while the EPA Brownfields Job Training Program supports environmental and disaster response workforce development for rural and environmentally impacted communities. Alaska Forum's Brownfields work plan identifies Community Emergency Response Team training and HAZWOPER as part of a tiered training model designed to strengthen local environmental and disaster response capacity while creating pathways to employment.

From Alaska Forum's experience, the practical benefit of STEP is that it helps turn training need into training access. It allows providers to respond to real community and employer needs, reduce barriers for participants, and support credentials that have immediate value in Alaska's workforce and in community resilience. This is particularly important for rural and disaster-impacted communities where access to training, local response capacity, and workforce readiness are directly connected.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information from Alaska Forum's direct experience delivering STEP-supported training. We appreciate the Committee's attention to workforce development, rural training access, and the role of coordinated training investments in strengthening Alaska's communities and economy.

Sincerely,



Kurt A. Eilo, Executive Director
Alaska Forum (907) 230-9805 | [keilo@akforum.org]

Doniece Gott

From: hopeprevention@aptalaska.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 8:36 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Funding for CDVSA and VCCB

Good morning Committee Members,

As the Executive Director of Helping Ourselves Prevent Emergencies (HOPE), a domestic violence/sexual assault advocacy center, I feel compelled to disagree with the Senate DPS Finance Subcommittee's decision to take away 50% of the additions to the grants for CDVSA's Victim Services and Legal Services. The request for CDVSA's budget was \$2 million. So even with the \$1.2 million House numbers, many domestic violence/sexual assault programs in Alaska will be unable to provide the safety, support, and services to those victims who need assistance.

I urge you to reject the actions of the subcommittee and amend the CDVSA Grants line, adding the full \$2 million request, or at least the \$1.2 million House figure. Similarly, I request that you go against the subcommittee's action and amend the CDVSA Legal Services line item to the House number of \$500k.

Also, we cannot support the denial of change in funding source for the Violent Crimes Compensation Board, because State funds need to be available for victims of violent crimes now, so federal funds will continue being available for this purpose.

I request that you reject the subcommittee's actions and make sure the VCCB has general funds of \$592k in the State budget to help victims of crime so that the federal money for this purpose will continue coming to the Board.

You all obviously care about supporting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, so the thought that you are considering reducing the small amount of additional funding the House gave toward these efforts is disappointing.

If cuts in funding happen for the services provided to victims on Prince of Wales, HOPE will likely have to make some tough decisions about which services to discontinue for survivors. We have worked very hard to fill gaps in services since we are in a rural area without many resources. Any cuts in funding are devastating to Prince of Wales.

Respectfully,

Tiffany Mills

Executive Director, HOPE
Helping Ourselves Prevent Emergencies
hopeprevention@aptalaska.net
907-826-2581



Doniece Gott

From: Taylor Finley <taylor_finley@twcpeace.org>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 9:55 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Victims Services Funding

To whom it may concern,

I am disappointed in the action taken in the DPS Finance Subcommittee on 4/15/26. It is not okay to reduce funds to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

During the next phases of the budget process, do the right thing and support bringing the total funds available to victims up to the House-approved numbers.

I do not agree with the actions taken by the Senate DPS Finance Subcommittee to reduce the House's adds to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's direct grants to victim services programs and to legal services by 50%.

I don't support denying the fund source change for the Violent Crimes Compensation Board. State funds must be available to distribute to victims of violent crimes now so that federal funds will continue to be available to them.

Reject these actions and restore funding for CDVSA and VCCB to the House funding amounts when the DPS finance subcommittee report comes before the full Finance committee.

Thank you,
Taylor Finley (they/them)
Youth Services Manager
Tundra Women's Coalition
248 6th Ave
Po Box 2029
Bethel, AK 99559
907-543-3444 (Main Office)
907-545-6305 (Cell)
907-543-3752 (Fax)
taylor_finley@twcpeace.org
tundrapeace.org



NOTICE-

Tundra Women's Coalition, Box 2029, Bethel, AK (907)543-3444

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please contact us immediately. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. Thank you for your cooperation.

Doniece Gott

From: Nakissha Bialy <nakissha_bialy@twcpeace.org>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2026 4:05 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee

The actions taken by the Senate DPS Finance Subcommittee to reduce the House adds to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's direct grants to victim services programs and legal services by 50% are not supported from the advocates who see the need from survivors every day in our work.

Please reject these actions and restore funding for CDVSA to the House funding amounts when the DPS subcommittee report comes before the full Finance Committee

Programs like TWC have been flat funded for years but the cost of living keeps increasing. TWC is an agency that is always open and is a low-barrier resource for people. TWC is also an agency staffed entirely by locals from rural Alaska living in rural Alaska. While our funding has remained flat it also gets more difficult to pay local, rural staff fair living wages.

Thank you for your time.

--

Nakissha Bialy
Transition Coordinator
Tundra Women's Coalition
248 6th Ave
Po Box 2029
Bethel, AK 99559
907-543-3444 (Main Office)
907-543-0422 (direct line)
907-543-3752 (Fax)
nakissha_bialy@twcpeace.org
tundrapeace.org



NOTICE-

Tundra Women's Coalition, Box 2029, Bethel, AK (907)543-3444

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please contact us immediately. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. Thank you for your cooperation.

Doniece Gott

From: Jack Byrne <Jack.Byrne@comconnections.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 4:22 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Restore CDVSA Funding in the State Budget

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing as a supporter of Women In Safe Homes (WISH) in Southern Southeast Alaska to express my strong concern regarding the actions taken by the Senate Department of Public Safety Finance Subcommittee on April 15, 2026.

The decision to reduce funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) grants and victim legal services by 50%, and to deny funding for the Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB), will have serious consequences for survivors in our communities.

WISH serves a large, remote region with limited resources and already faces significant challenges in meeting the needs of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. These funding reductions will directly impact access to shelter, advocacy, and legal protections, services that are often lifesaving.

I respectfully urge you to:

- Restore CDVSA grant funding and legal services to the House-approved levels
- Support funding for VCCB to ensure victims can access critical financial assistance and to preserve federal matching funds

These investments are essential to maintaining safety, stability, and justice for survivors across Alaska.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jack Byrne
Community Connections
CMH Associate Director
Ketchikan, AK
Phone: 907-225-7825 x353
Fax: 907-225-1541

Doniece Gott

From: James Clare <jcpe81649@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 1:42 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Restore Funding for Victim Services and VCCB

Dear Senate Finance Committee Co-Chair Sen. Bert Stedman and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the actions taken by the Senate DPS Finance Subcommittee to reduce the House additions to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's (CDVSA) direct grants to victim services programs and to civil legal services by 50 percent.

I do not support denying the fund source change for the Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB). State funds must be available to distribute to victims of violent crimes now so that federal funds will continue to be available to them.

I respectfully urge the subcommittee to reconsider these actions and support restoring funding for CDVSA and the VCCB to the House-approved levels when the DPS finance subcommittee report comes before the full Senate Finance Committee.

These decisions send the wrong message when Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence and sexual assault in the country. Studies show more than half of Alaska women have experienced intimate partner violence or sexual violence, compared with about one in three women nationally, and Alaska's rates of child victimization are also among the highest in the nation. We cannot abandon these victims.

Victim services programs across the state have effectively been flat funded since 2017. During that time, costs have increased significantly while demand for services has continued to grow, leaving programs under substantial financial strain. Over the last three years, SAFV has worked to keep services afloat despite these challenges, but not without difficult reductions. SAFV no longer has a dedicated children's program and now operates with only one advocate on shift at a time. This significantly limits the organization's capacity to respond to crises, provide ongoing support, and meet the diverse needs of survivors.

As a result, SAFV is currently only able to offer basic services, and even those are stretched thin. Without increased and sustained funding, the gap between community need and available support will continue to widen, placing vulnerable individuals and families at greater risk.

Sitkans Against Family Violence (SAFV) operates the only domestic violence shelter in the area and provides crisis response, advocacy, and direct services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Sitka and surrounding Southeast Alaska communities. Reductions in victim services funding has a real impact and ultimately means fewer resources available for shelter, advocacy, and support for survivors seeking safety.

Thank you for your consideration.

Doniece Gott

From: beh@alaska.net
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 9:14 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Restore Funding to Victims of Violence

Dear Senate Finance Committee Co-Chair Sen. Bert Stedman and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the actions taken by the Senate DPS Finance Subcommittee to reduce the House additions to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's (CDVSA) direct grants to victim services programs and to civil legal services by 50 percent.

I do not support denying the fund source change for the Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB). State funds must be available to distribute to victims of violent crimes now so that federal funds will continue to be available to them.

I respectfully urge the subcommittee to reconsider these actions and support restoring funding for CDVSA and the VCCB to the House-approved levels when the DPS finance subcommittee report comes before the full Senate Finance Committee.

These decisions send the wrong message when Alaska has some of the highest rates of domestic violence and sexual assault in the country. Studies show more than half of Alaska women have experienced intimate partner violence or sexual violence, compared with about one in three women nationally, and Alaska's rates of child victimization are also among the highest in the nation. We cannot abandon these victims.

Victim services programs across the state have effectively been flat funded since 2017. During that time, costs have increased significantly while demand for services has continued to grow, leaving programs under substantial financial strain. Over the last three years, SAFV has worked to keep services afloat despite these challenges, but not without difficult reductions. SAFV no longer has a dedicated children's program and now operates with only one advocate on shift at a time. This significantly limits the organization's capacity to respond to crises, provide ongoing support, and meet the diverse needs of survivors.

As a result, SAFV is currently only able to offer basic services, and even those are stretched thin. Without increased and sustained funding, the gap between community need and available support will continue to widen, placing vulnerable individuals and families at greater risk.

Sitkans Against Family Violence (SAFV) operates the only domestic violence shelter in the area and provides crisis response, advocacy, and direct services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Sitka and surrounding Southeast Alaska communities. Reductions in victim services funding has a real impact and ultimately means fewer resources available for shelter, advocacy, and support for survivors seeking safety.

Thank you for your consideration.

Doniece Gott

From: Val Massie <valeriemassie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 8:00 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Valerie Massie; Val Massie
Subject: Restore CDVSA Funding in the State Budget

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing as a supporter of Women In Safe Homes (WISH) in Southern Southeast Alaska to express my strong concern regarding the actions taken by the Senate Department of Public Safety Finance Subcommittee on April 15, 2026.

The decision to reduce funding for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) grants and victim legal services by 50%, and to deny funding for the Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB), will have serious consequences for survivors in our communities.

WISH serves a large, remote region with limited resources and already faces significant challenges in meeting the needs of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. These funding reductions will directly impact access to shelter, advocacy, and legal protections, services that are often lifesaving.

I respectfully urge you to:

- Restore CDVSA grant funding and legal services to the House-approved levels
- Support funding for VCCB to ensure victims can access critical financial assistance and to preserve federal matching funds

These investments are essential to maintaining safety, stability, and justice for survivors across Alaska. These services are already stretched thin and the socio-economic cost incurred from the lack of available, funded services and trained staff is far greater than the imagined savings of not investing in services for survivors, their families, and communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Valerie Massie
Wrangell WISH Rural Board Member

Doniece Gott

From: Arllen Fazzini <arllen_fazzini@twcpeace.org>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 3:58 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Cut Funding for Victim Services

Dear DPS Finance Subcommittee,

We would like your office to know that we do not agree with the actions taken by the Senate DPS Finance Subcommittee to reduce the House adds to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's direct grants to victim services programs and to legal services by 50%.

We don't support denying the fund source change for the Violent Crimes Compensation Board. State funds must be available to distribute to victims of violent crimes now so that federal funds will continue to be available to them.

Reject these actions and restore funding for CDVSA and VCCB to the House funding amounts when the DPS finance subcommittee report comes before the full Finance committee.

If they cut the funding, our community and victims of DV will face difficulties if the full amount of the funding is not restored.

The safety and lives of women, men, and children experiencing domestic violence are what will be most deeply affected.

Multiple years of flat funding are fundamentally unjust to survivors of violence.

We respectfully request your full support for the complete funding of DV services.

Sincerely yours,

Arllen Fazzini

Tundra Women's Coalition

Bethel, Alaska

NOTICE-

Tundra Women's Coalition, Box 2029, Bethel, AK (907)543-3444

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please contact us immediately. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. Thank you for your cooperation.

Doniece Gott

From: Keeley Olson <kolson@staralaska.org>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 4:44 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: CDVSA and VCCB funding

We do not agree with the actions taken by the Senate DPS Finance Subcommittee to reduce the House adds to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's direct grants to victim services programs and to legal services by 50%.

We don't support denying the fund source change for the Violent Crimes Compensation Board. State funds must be available to distribute to victims of violent crimes now so that federal funds will continue to be available to them.

Please reject these actions and restore funding for CDVSA and VCCB to the House funding amounts when the DPS finance subcommittee report comes before the full Finance committee.

Keeley Olson
Executive Director
Standing Together Against Rape (**STAR**)
1057 W. Fireweed Lane | Suite 230 | Anchorage, AK 99503



Office Line | 907.276.7279
24 Hour Crisis Line | Relay Friendly | 907.276.7273
Fax | 907.278.9983
kolson@staralaska.org
www.staralaska.com

STAR's mission is to prevent sexual trauma and provide comprehensive, collaborative crisis intervention, advocacy and support to victims/survivors, their families and our communities.

This email, including attachments, is intended for the use of the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain CONFIDENTIAL or privileged information that is protected by federal and state regulation. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient or his or her agent, the reader is notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this email is prohibited. If you think you have received this email in error, please advise the sender by reply email.

Doniece Gott

From: Yvonne Aloralrea <yvonne_aloralrea@twcpeace.org>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 3:38 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Reducing funds

We do not agree with the actions taken by the Senate DPS Finance Subcommittee to reduce the House adds to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's direct grants to victim services programs and to legal services by 50%.

We don't support denying the fund source change for the Violent Crimes Compensation Board. State funds must be available to distribute to victims of violent crimes now so that federal funds will continue to be available to them.

Reject these actions and restore funding for CDVSA and VCCB to the House funding amounts when the DPS finance subcommittee report comes before the full Finance committee.

Many survivors utilize services funded by CDVSA and cutting that funding will affect many survivors who seek our assistance when they feel they have nowhere else to go.

--

Yvonne "Nonni" Aloralrea (she/her)
Community Response Coordinator
Tundra Women's Coalition
(907) 543-3444, fax (907) 543-3752

NOTICE-

Tundra Women's Coalition, Box 2029, Bethel, AK (907)543-3444

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please contact us immediately. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. Thank you for your cooperation.

Doniece Gott

From: Elizabeth Roll <Elizabeth_Roll@ykhc.org>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 2:25 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Eileen Arnold
Subject: Unhappy with actions taken by Senate DPS Finance Subcommittee to reduce Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault grants by 50%

Dear Senate Finance Subcommittee,

My name is Elizabeth Roll MD and I have been over a 20 year member on the Tundra Women's Coalition Board. I have seen dozens of Alaskans affected by family violence over my 26 years of working as a physician in the Yukon Kuskokwim Health corporation.

I am writing this letter as a TWC Board representative and a private citizen.

We (Tundra Women's Coalition) do not agree with the actions taken by the Senate DPS Finance Subcommittee to reduce the House adds to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's direct grants to victim services programs and to legal services by 50%.

We (Tundra Women's Coalition) don't support denying the fund source change for the Violent Crimes Compensation Board. State funds must be available to distribute to victims of violent crimes now so that federal funds will continue to be available to them.

Please Reject these actions and restore funding for CDVSA and VCCB to the House funding amounts when the DPS finance subcommittee report comes before the full Finance committee.

If the proposed cuts happen we will have to greatly decrease our services to the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta and the 50 villages it serves - things like not being able to afford to pay for the plane fare of folks trying to leave a village to escape violence/ not having enough food and or beds to house citizens fleeing from violence/ decreasing the amount of time someone can stay in a shelter or not being able to fund supporting programs that teach kids and families how to grow up in healthy ways to help stop family violence from recurring.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Elizabeth Roll MD
TWC Board Member
PO Box 923
Bethel, Alaska 99559
Elizabeth_roll@ykhc.org
907-543-6282

Confidentiality Notice: This email message and any attachments may contain confidential and private information of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC), which is protected by law from any further disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any further disclosure, copying, distribution or use of this email or any attachments is prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please forward this email and all attachments immediately to YKHC's Privacy Officer at: privacy_officer@ykhc.org and then immediately delete this email and all attachments.

Doniece Gott

From: sart@kwrcc.org
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 11:06 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: sart@kwrcc.org
Subject: CDVSA - VCCB Cuts

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I do not agree with the actions taken by the Senate DPS Finance Subcommittee to reduce the House adds to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's direct grants to victim services programs and to legal services by 50%.

I don't support denying the fund source change for the Violent Crimes Compensation Board. State funds must be available to distribute to victims of violent crimes so that federal funds will continue to be available to them.

Please reject these actions and restore funding for CDVSA and VCCB to the House funding amounts when the DPS finance subcommittee report comes before the full Finance committee.

It is hard enough to have women and children on the streets of Alaska because they will have no safe place to go while trying to move forward with support. If our funding is cut anymore we will not be able to provide the services needed to assist and support the people that need it. We have already taken a huge cut and to cut more would be very detrimental to our community. Please reconsider making more cuts and reinstate the monies that were allocated to our programs.

Thank you for your time!

Penny Lampl

SART & Shelter Coordinator

Kodiak Women's Resource and Crisis Center

422 Hillside Drive

Kodiak, Alaska 99615

(907)486-6171

(907)486-4264 fax

SART@kwrcc.org

www.kwrcc.org

Doniece Gott

From: Deanna Pavil <deannapavil@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 8:28 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Victim services funding

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent decision to reduce funding for victim services.

In recent years, funding for these critical services has largely plateaued, failing to keep pace with rising operational costs, population needs, and the increasing complexity of care required. At the same time, the demand for victim services has grown significantly. Organizations serving survivors of violence, abuse, and trauma are facing higher caseloads, longer wait times, and greater barriers to providing comprehensive, timely support.

Reducing funding in this context risks further straining already limited resources and may result in fewer services available to those who need them most. Victim service providers play an essential role in ensuring safety, stability, and recovery for individuals and families across our state. These services are not optional, they are foundational to the health and well being of our communities.

I urge you to reconsider this decision and to prioritize sustainable, increased investment in victim services. Doing so is not only a matter of fiscal responsibility but also a commitment to protecting and supporting Alaskans during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Deanna Pavil

Doniece Gott

From: CJ Aloralrea <cj_aloralrea@twcpeace.org>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 8:53 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Senate Department of Public Safety Finance Subcommittee

Good morning,

I want to voice my concern over the actions taken by the Senate DPS Finance Subcommittee to reduce the House adds to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's direct grants to victim service programs and to legal services by 50%.

It's hard for me to understand the reasoning to cut these services in a state whose population is already at risk for becoming missing and/or murdered. Please do not cut funding for the people of Alaska.

I also don't support denying the funding for the Violent Crimes Compensation Board. State funds must be available to distribute to victims of violent crimes now so that federal funds will continue to be available to them.

Make us to be proud Alaskans-

CJ

--

CJ Aloralrea
Deputy Director
Tundra Women's Coalition
907-543-3444

Important Update: Name Change

My e-mail has changed to cj_aloralrea@twcpeace.org, however my old e-mail will be forwarded to this one. Other contact info will remain the same.

NOTICE-

Tundra Women's Coalition, Box 2029, Bethel, AK (907)543-3444

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please contact us immediately. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. Thank you for your cooperation.

Doniece Gott

From: Cheri Smith <csmith@leeshoreak.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 3:15 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Reduction to CDVSA grants line

As the victim service agency in Kenai, I wanted to address the decision last night by the Senate DPS Finance Subcommittee. We do not agree with the actions taken to reduce the House adds to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault direct grant's to victim services programs and to legal services by 50%. We also don't support denying the fund source change for the Violent Crimes Compensation Board. State funds must be available to distribute to victims of violent crimes now so that federal funds will continue to be available to them.

I ask that these actions be rejected and funding restored for CDVSA and VCCB to the House funding amounts when the DPS finance subcommittee report comes before the full Finance committee. Any reductions in grant funding to victim services, legal services, or VCCB will negatively impact services to victims throughout the state.

Cheri Smith
Executive Director
The LeeShore Center
325 S. Spruce St.
Kenai AK 99611
(907) 283-9479

Doniece Gott

From: Adrienne Gaines <adrienne.g@wishak.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 3:53 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: CDVSA

We do not agree with the actions taken by the Senate DPS Finance Subcommittee to reduce the House adds to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's direct grants to victim services programs and to legal services by 50%.

We don't support denying the fund source change for the Violent Crimes Compensation Board. State funds must be available to distribute to victims of violent crimes now so that federal funds will continue to be available to them.

Reject these actions and restore funding for CDVSA and VCCB to the House funding amounts when the DPS finance subcommittee report comes before the full Finance committee.

Thank you,

Adrienne Gaines, LPC

Executive Director | Women in Safe Homes
907-228-4371 | adrienne.g@wishak.org

Please note: The information contained in this message may be privileged, confidential and protected from disclosure. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the agent responsible for delivering this message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error please provide immediate notification by replying to the message and deleting it from your computer. Thank you for your cooperation.

Doniece Gott

From: Eileen Arnold <eileen_arnold@twcpeace.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 6:47 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: DPS Budget

We do not agree with the actions taken by the Senate DPS Finance Subcommittee to reduce the House adds to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's direct grants to victim services programs and to legal services by 50%.

We don't support denying the fund source change for the Violent Crimes Compensation Board. State funds must be available to distribute to victims of violent crimes now so that federal funds will continue to be available to them.

Reject these actions and restore funding for CDVSA and VCCB to the House funding amounts when the DPS finance subcommittee report comes before the full Finance committee.

TWC is an agency full of people that hustles to help people. We do a lot with a little. If we continue to receive funds not adequate to the work that survivors, our community, and our partners ask us to do, we will have to start making cuts to programs. We will have to reduce the number of people we can have in shelter, even though we're the second busiest shelter in the state (after AWAIC), we will have to reject requests from our law enforcement, medical, OCS, and other state partners to intercede when a family has to start over again because of violence.

We are a program that is imbedded in the community and staffed by community members. We want to help our community. But it's unjust to ask so much of low barrier programs like ours when other agencies have so many other resources and remain so compartmentalized.

Eileen Arnold
She, Her, Hers
Executive Director
Tundra Women's Coalition
907-543-3444



April 16, 2026

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature - Senate Finance Committee,

We are grateful for the Legislature's sustained investments in early childhood programs in recent years. Those commitments made a real difference for children, families and employers who depend on an available workforce. In fact, in addition to ensuring our youngest residents are safe and cared for, you've helped stabilize a sector that supports Alaska's workforce. But continued investment is needed.

As leaders in Alaska's early childhood sector, we understand better than anyone that the strongest returns - for children, families, and our broader economy - come from investing early in children's lives and investing upstream (primary prevention). We write in unified support of a complete package of early childhood investments in the FY27 state budget. The evidence is clear: the decisions made in a child's earliest years shape everything that follows.

To adequately fund early childhood in Alaska, we urge the Senate Finance Committee to support the full early childhood package in the first committee substitute of the FY27 Operating Budget as outlined below.

1. **\$7.5 million for Early Educator Retention** — Funding for early educators to keep classrooms open, prevent further program closures, and retain the workforce that makes child care possible.
2. **\$5.72 million for the Infant Learning Program** — Early intervention services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities, plus support for families navigating those early years.
3. **\$3.756 million for Head Start** — Provides the full non-federal match required, allowing programs in our state to halt the negative trend of decreasing services, which is a loss that Alaska's children, families, and communities cannot afford.
4. **\$500,000 for Parents as Teachers** — Home visiting that strengthens parenting skills, supports child development, and helps families thrive early.
5. **\$320,000 for Best Beginnings Imagination Library** — Free books mailed to young children across Alaska to boost early literacy and school readiness.

Early childhood funding is an investment in our families and in Alaska's economic future. When Alaska's youngest children have access to quality care, early intervention, and stable and supported families, the returns flow directly into our schools, our workforce, and our communities. Plus, these returns create cost savings to our overall state budget rather than increased, high-expense costs. When these systems are underfunded, Alaska's families and businesses face the impacts - employees are forced to leave the workforce due to lack of access to care, students arrive at schools unprepared, and employers are unable to recruit talent in Alaska.

Alaska's youngest children and working families cannot afford another year of instability. The early childhood sector is not a collection of isolated programs; it is a system, and systems only work when all their parts are supported. Cutting one piece to pay for another is like repairing a bridge by pulling bolts from one end to shore up the other. These programs are interconnected - all five of the outlined programs serve a critical role in ensuring children arrive at kindergarten ready to learn. Underfunding any one component results in negative ripple effects to the entire system; in developmental delays, workforce gaps, and higher health care and correctional facility expenses, further burdening the overall state budget. These investments are best funded as a complete package.

Our ask is not new. For nearly a decade, Alaska's early childhood community has been clear and consistent about what is needed. The priorities in the FY27 budget reflect a long-standing, sector-wide consensus. It is a roadmap that has been deliberate and sustainable.

Adequate funding for Alaska's early childhood system is not aspirational - it is the difference between a system that works for Alaska and one that fails our families and our economy. We respectfully urge you to fund the complete package. Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to Alaska's future.

Sincerely,
The undersigned



Stephanie Berghuel



Alaska Infant Learning Program Association

Amy Simpson *Heidi Huns*



Deborah L. Trowbridge, M.Ed.

Digitally signed by Deborah L. Trowbridge, M.Ed. Date: 2026.03.31 17:30:15 -08'00'

Margaret Bower



Heather N. Foxworthy



BEST BEGINNINGS
Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

Amo Collins



SOUTHEAST Childhood Collective

SUPPORTING FAMILIES, EMPOWERING EDUCATORS

Bene Shroy



Tamaro Ben-Yosef



alaska children's trust

[Signature]