
From: Suzi P <suzi_p@awaic.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 4:08 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB116

Dear members of the committee,

I am writing to support HB116 as an opportunity to bring additional funding to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's budget. These funds will be helpful in closing the gap in funding shelters and sexual assault programs throughout the state as a long-term strategy should it pass the legislature this year.

I want to stress the importance to the committee about restoring the \$4 million that is lacking from the CDVSA budget in this year's proposed budget and filling it with state general funds and putting it in the base to create more stability for CDVSA in the long run and ensure that sufficient funding is guaranteed in the FY25 budget.

AWAIC would be facing a 20% cut to our CDVSA funding should the \$4 million not be restored. These funds primarily support AWAIC's emergency shelter, nonresidential services, and legal advocacy. These cuts could reduce the number of emergency shelter beds in Anchorage from 67 to potentially 45. There would be a waitlist for nonresidential services, and the legal advocacy program could be cut. These reductions in services would be devastating to the victims we serve at AWAIC.

Please restore the \$4 million to the CDVSA line item for grants from FY24 to FY25. Additionally, support the passage of HB116 as an opportunity to show your support and ensure victim services are prioritized in communities throughout the state.

Thank you for your consideration and your service.

Warm regards,

suzi

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Abused Women's Aid In Crisis, Inc.

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

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