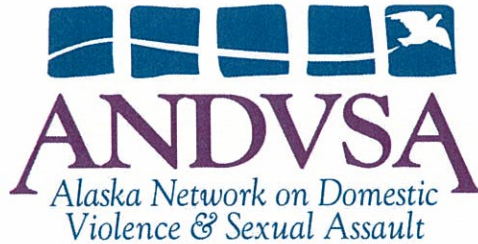


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February 4, 2011

Senator Bettye Davis
State Capitol, Room 30
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Letter of Support for SB 5

Dear Senator Davis:

On behalf of our member programs that provide safety and resources for women and children throughout Alaska, and the women and children for whose safety we advocate, thank you for introducing SB 5. The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault fully supports SB5. An increase in the maximum income Medicaid eligibility requirements to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level will provide many additional women and children critical and oftentimes lifesaving medical services.

It is common for instances of abuse to be first detected by medical providers, who then refer women and children to appropriate services in their communities. In this regard, access to regular medical care is one of our first screening and referral tools. But beyond increasing knowledge of and referrals to community resources, an increase in Medicaid eligibility will allow women to make safe choices. When women know they have the resources to adequately provide for their children, they are more likely to take steps to leave abusive situations. An increase to the maximum eligibility requirement will afford such security to scores of working mothers.

The Network is in full support of SB 5. Thank you for advocating for women and children in our state, and if I may be of any assistance or provide you any information, please let me know,

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 Sitka SAFV Unalaska USAFV Valdez AVV