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Senator Jess Keihl
State Capitol Room 514
Juneau AK, 99801
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SB 31 Address Confidentiality Program: Letter of Support

The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) is the state coalition of twenty-four community-based domestic violence and sexual assault service providers. ANDVSA supports SB 31 and appreciates your work in bringing the legislation forward again this year.

There are times when someone comes to a program for assistance and is so concerned about the person causing harm finding them that we do everything we can to minimize their contact outside of our agencies. The reality is that people seeking services may be involved in life and death situations.

The address confidentiality program will be an excellent tool for such circumstances. Being able to have legal documents; bills; any and all first-class mail that go through another address will add a layer of protection. Having their new home address held in confidence may allow someone to leave shelter earlier with a better assurance of their safety.

Providing an address confidentiality program will prohibit a victim's location being revealed when they apply for a driver's license, register to vote, open a bank account, setup new services such as utilities and phone at their new location, do any of the things necessary to start over where an address is required.

Stalking is the most prevalent form of surveillance used in coercive control. In domestic violence situations it is distinguished by its duration (lasting 2.2 years on average, twice the typical length of stalking by strangers), its link to physical violence, and its combination with complementary forms of intimidation and control. An address confidentiality program can reduce these attempts at coercive control. If a person can't be found, they can't be stalked.

Leaving is one of the most dangerous times for victims of domestic violence. Let's support their brave efforts. Being able to relocate to an undisclosed location will increase their chances of survival. Please pass SB 31 as quickly as possible. It's past time for Alaska to provide this protection to its citizens who need it.

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