

Main Office  
130 Seward St #214  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Phone: (907) 586-3650  
Fax: (907) 463-4493  
[www.andvsa.org](http://www.andvsa.org)



Pro Bono Office  
PO Box 6631  
Sitka, Alaska 99835  
Phone: (907) 747-7545  
Fax: (907) 747-7547  
[www.facebook.com/andvsa](http://www.facebook.com/andvsa)

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7 April 2016

Senate Finance Committee  
State Capitol Room 516  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Kelly, Senator MacKinnon, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I write today on behalf of the 19 member agencies that constitute the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA), a statewide coalition that promotes and sustains a collective movement to end violence and oppression through social change, and further supports those agencies and communities working to prevent and eliminate domestic and sexual violence.

ANDVSA commends the SB91 bill sponsor Senator John Coghill, the Senate Finance Committee, and the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission for developing this comprehensive package of reform recommendations, and we are profoundly grateful that the bill sponsor has been supportive of our priorities as the bill made its way to Senate Finance. In particular, we are grateful that the version of SB91 before you (CSSSSB91(FIN) work draft 29-LS0541F) treats domestic violence and sexual assault offenses differently than other violent and non-violent crime.

It is widely acknowledged by proponents of criminal justice reform that reform without reinvestment in treatment and prevention would undermine the original purpose of the reform effort. We agree. As Senate Finance considers the balance of reform with reinvestment, ANDVSA respectfully offers its support for SB91 with the following caveat: We believe the sweeping changes included in SB91 must be coupled with reinvestment into treatment and prevention programs if the reform is to truly work.

There is strong evidence that prevention funding helps turn the curve on violence. And just as data drove the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission recommendations, the latest Alaska Victimization Survey (UAA Justice Center, 2015) results suggest there is a strong relationship between the focused and inclusive prevention work over the past five years and fewer reported instances of violence.

Put simply, prevention is something we must be doing more of if we are to reduce instances of domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska. We also recognize that accommodations made in SB91 to address victim advocates' concerns may limit the savings available for reinvestment. ANDVSA therefore supports reinvestment going toward domestic violence and sexual assault prevention programs to the maximum extent possible.

We appreciate the hard work that has gone into crafting this expansive legislation that ultimately strives to curtail violence in our communities, and we urge you to invest in violence prevention and intervention

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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**  
Seward **SeaView Community Services** Sitka **SAFV** Unalaska **USAFV** Valdez **AVV**

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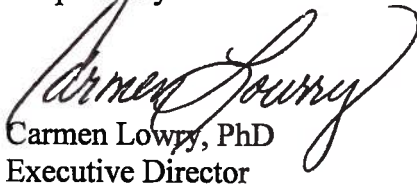
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strategies while implementing reform intended to result in desired changes of less crime, fewer victims, and a more productive and safe citizenry.

If I or any of my colleagues can provide additional information or clarify our position, please reach out. We welcome the opportunity to work with you. While available resources may be dwindling, the will to create change is not. Thank you for this opportunity to express our support for SB91, and to publicly thank you for your work.

Respectfully



Carmen Lowry, PhD  
Executive Director

Cc: Senator John Coghill

Encl: ANDVSA prevention activities letter

Community Prevention Snapshots 2015

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#### 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  
Seward SeaView Community Services Sitka SAFV Unalaska USAFV Valdez AVV