

**From:** [James Hoagland](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Please keep Domestic Violence Prevention Funding!  
**Date:** Monday, March 30, 2015 3:07:50 PM

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Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Last week I proudly attended the “Choose Respect” rally on the Capitol Steps. Along with many members of the local community who are deeply concerned about the dangerously high levels of domestic and sexual violence in Alaska, I stood in support of the state’s continued efforts to decrease those levels. Now today, I hear of funding cuts to this very program. While \$1.5 million seems like a lot of money, we know it is nothing compared to the huge budget deficit. Cutting this particular program – GUTTING this particular program – will do nothing to solve a much, much larger problem that Alaska has to face. The only result will be rising numbers of women, children and men who are assaulted, abused, denigrated and disempowered from speaking out and getting help. Programs like AWARE play vital roles in our communities – educating women and other victims of violence on how to get away and be safe, educating men on the principles of nonviolence and respect, and educating all children on healthy relationships and human kindness. They also provide life-saving services to women who are deeply in trouble because of violence. Our community relies on programs like these to improve our weakest aspects. Please don’t cut this vital funding.

Thank you,

James Hoagland

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