

**From:** [panganga pungowiyi](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Prevention Efforts  
**Date:** Monday, March 30, 2015 4:14:09 PM

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My name is Panganga Pungowiyi and I was first touched by CDVSA prevention efforts in the spring of 2010. I attended a Choose Respect march while studying Human Services the Alaska Job Corps Center in Palmer. While attending this event I was in a domestic violence situation. Although I was away and safe on campus, I was still very much in danger of returning to my abuser upon graduation.

I had left and returned to him several times at this point of my life and was confused about the abuse and my situation as many victims of the cycle of violence are. Before this event, a counselor had shown me the wheel of power and control, and this helped to put things into perspective. I understood what was happening to me "qualified" as abuse. This moment was very important. Attending the Choose Respect event was also necessary for me to leave my abuser. At this event, a woman spoke of her situation, and her story helped me in a way no counselor ever could.

This brave woman's personal account, and the amount of support rallied around her at this event was crucial for me to witness. Apart from this I had information but no hope. It was here I understood the power of prevention work. Since this event I have built healthy and positive relationships and have embarked on a career rooted in the theme of prevention. While treatment and intervention are necessary pieces to a happy and healthy community, the key for a positive future is prevention.

I have been involved in every Choose Respect Event in my local community. I became a board member for the local women's shelter, and have been working with prevention efforts for almost 2 years. Most of our work is in promoting healthy and positive relationships as well as community healing. We have been deeply involved with the statewide Green Dot violence prevention effort. CDVSA and the founder of this program have been working closely with rural providers to ruralize and indigenize their programming.

I have not been in the field long, but I hear praise and positive comments often on the collaboration between CDVSA, a state organization, and the rural communities. I am grateful to have such a positive relationship with CDVSA. Their programming would not work as well as it does were it not for their openness awareness and hearts of those who are currently in place. We need the relationships to continue to build if we want to keep moving forward.

Our local organizations have been looking forward to bringing in and becoming involved in other prevention programming offered by CDVSA, including Coaching Boys Into Men and COMPASS. Our community needs the information available in these programs, and we need people in place who are open to working with our communities to adapt things for cultural relevance. Right now we have access to these. I am concerned as a community member who has been touched on a personal level at the amount of funding being cut from CDVSA prevention efforts. This is unsettling.

One of the most important parts CDVSA plays in our community is with the statewide Prevention Summit, held annually around the state. Our community has been involved for the last two years. The amount of collaboration that results from these meetings is invaluable. We build and strengthen partnerships not only within our on communities, but with other community organizations who face issues similar to our own. CDVSA has paved the way for us to be able to work more efficiently together in order to create change. These gatherings have given us relationships and resources we would not have access to otherwise. Please note my support and concern for the

ongoing funding of these efforts, as they are truly needed through all areas of our communities.

I wanted to be on the phone personally to express my support, but am unfortunately home sick. I hope this written support finds you well

Thank you,

Panganga Pungowiyi