

From: [Brett Richardson](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: CDVSA Funding Cuts
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 8:49:28 PM

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing from Unalaska, Alaska where I am a volunteer board member for USAFV (Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence). I am deeply disturbed by the possibility of zero funding from the State of Alaska. State funding cuts will have a damaging effect on our non-profit, and full elimination of funding is potentially devastating. When you decide to cut state funding to radio stations like KUCB, please be aware that you are cutting these services:

- We know that Alaska has, for many years, had one of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child sexual abuse. The only way to change this culture of silence and violence is to change societal norms, by changing the way people think about and talk about these issues, and the only way to do that is through prevention.

- The prevention activities impacted by the cuts to CDVSA, such as Stand Up! Speak up!, the COMPASS program, Lead On, and Alaska Men Choose Respect, have enabled the Unalaska program (USAFV) to enhance their collaborations with other agencies and to engage men and youth in their efforts to reduce dating violence, sexual assault, and domestic abuse. They have had activities with the Unalaska Student Council, with the local recreation center, and have produced awareness materials featuring local teachers, public safety officers, and the local Coast Guard members taking a stand against violence. The Unalaska Stand Up! Speak Up! Project brought together community youth and safe adults in a project (a week-long scavenger hunt) that required them to explore community resources, learn more about healthy coping skills, work on a community service project, and other fun activities.

- USAFV uses the prevention funds for innovative projects and activities that our community has been excited about. As a result of these efforts, USAFV has seen an increase in the number of young people as well as men and women wanting to get involved in the program. Their efforts are reducing the stigma around the issues, keeping the issues at the forefront of people's minds, creating a safer community, and equipping our young people (and people of all ages) with the knowledge and tools they need to keep themselves safe and recognize and confront abusive behavior in themselves and others.

USAFV needs these prevention funds in order to keep the momentum going. It is only through education and prevention that we ever have a chance of preventing domestic and sexual violence.

Brett Richardson

PO BOX 921089

Dutch Harbor, AK 99692