



# ANDVSA

Alaska Network on Domestic Violence  
& Sexual Assault

Main Office

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Sitka Office

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Anchorage Office

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Anchorage, AK 99501  
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2 March 2017  
Alaska State Legislators  
Juneau, AK

Dear Legislators:

I write to you as the Executive Director of the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA). We offer our full support of SCR 2 designating April 2017 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. ANDVSA is grateful to Senator Meyer and his staff for putting sexual assault response, intervention, and prevention at the forefront through Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Our member agencies and affiliates – 24 victims' services providers from around the state – prioritize intervention in experiences of sexual assault, as well as upstream violence prevention efforts. However, Alaskans continue to experience unacceptably high levels of sexual assault. The 2015 Alaska Victimization Survey showed that out of every 100 adult women who reside in Alaska, 33 women experienced sexual violence and 50 women experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both. In particular, Alaska Native women and children are disproportionately impacted, and these numbers do not include victimization rates among men and boys.

Every day, emergency service provision through our member agencies engages advocates, medical professionals, and law enforcement to establish immediate safety and longer-term support for victims of sexual assault. Services include legal advocacy during prosecution as well as increasing access to basic life-saving social services. Our member agencies continuously strive to conduct broad and effective outreach and work in conjunction with community partners. As a result, more victims are aware of, have confidence in, and seek out services. In spite of strained resources, our member agencies do everything in their power to serve victims.

Prevention of sexual assault is rooted in educational advocacy and policy changes. Evidence-based, evidence-generating, and culturally-ground community-based work engages multiple stakeholders to build knowledge and tools, which in turn enables Alaskans to build community partnerships around the response to and prevention of sexual assault. This level of engagement is critical in dismantling the cultural normativity of sexual assault, as well as the culture of victim-blaming.

Ending sexual assault is a priority not only for individuals but also within and among communities throughout our state. Victim services providers always benefit from greater and enhanced community awareness and collaboration around this issue. Each and every Alaskan must be informed and empowered to work together to end sexual assault through a rigorous, comprehensive, and ongoing process of community-based interventions prevention efforts, and resounding efforts to listen to victims and survivors and to believe victims and survivors.

Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, STAR Bethel TWC Cordova CFRC Dillingham SAFE Fairbanks IAC Homer SPHH Juneau AWARE  
Kenai LeeShore Center Ketchikan WISH Kodiak KWRC Kotzebue MFCC Nome BSWG  
Seward SeaView Community Services Sitka SAFV Unalaska USAFV Utqiagvik AWIC Valdez AVV



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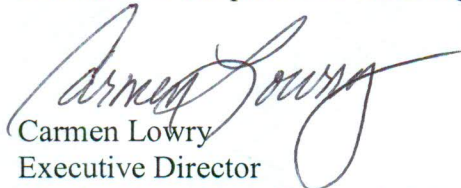
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We urge you to support SCR 2 and help continue expanding awareness and resources in order to end sexual assault in Alaska. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (907) 586-6560 or [clowry@andvsa.org](mailto:clowry@andvsa.org).

Thank you very much for your time and consideration, and thank you for your service to the people of Alaska. It is our power to work together that will end violence.



Carmen Lowry  
Executive Director

Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

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