



February 28, 2022

Representative Geran Tarr
State Capitol Room 128
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB 291 Letter of Support

Dear Representative Tarr,

The joint mission of the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ABADA) and the Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB) is to advocate for programs and services that promote healthy, independent, productive Alaskans. AMHB/ABADA are statutorily charged with advising, planning, and coordinating behavioral health services and programs funded by the State of Alaska.

The Boards support HB 291 to extend the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) and thank you for your leadership on this bill.

The 2020 Alaska Victimization Survey found that Alaska Mental Health Trust beneficiaries, including those with mental illness or chronic alcohol or drug addiction, were 2.5 times more likely to have experienced interpersonal violence, sexual violence or both in the past year compared to non-beneficiaries.

CDVSA serves these beneficiaries by ensuring Alaska has a system of statewide crisis intervention services such as local shelter programs, perpetrator accountability programs (such as batterer's intervention programs), and domestic violence prevention training programs. CDVSA also disperses funds related to services and programs that serve survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. The Boards are in full support of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and this bill to extend its termination date to 2028.

Sincerely,

Sharon Clark
AMHB Chair

Renee Schofield
ABADA Chair