

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE

February 22, 2022

3:04 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, Chair (via teleconference)

Representative Matt Claman, Vice Chair

Representative Geran Tarr

Representative Andi Story

Representative Sarah Vance

Representative James Kaufman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative David Eastman

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE BILL NO. 291

"An Act extending the termination date of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

HOUSE BILL NO. 37

"An Act relating to deposits into the dividend fund; relating to income of and appropriations from the earnings reserve account; relating to the taxation of income of individuals, partners, shareholders in S corporations, trusts, and estates; relating to a payment against the individual income tax from the permanent fund dividend disbursement; repealing tax credits applied against the tax on individuals under the Alaska Net Income Tax Act; and providing for an effective date."

- BILL HEARING POSTPONED

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 291

SHORT TITLE: EXTENDING COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) TARR

01/27/22 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS

01/27/22 (H) STA, FIN
02/17/22 (H) STA AT 3:00 PM GRUENBERG 120
02/17/22 (H) Heard & Held
02/17/22 (H) MINUTE (STA)
02/22/22 (H) STA AT 3:00 PM GRUENBERG 120

WITNESS REGISTER

MANDY COLE, Executive Director
Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 291.

CHRISTINE PATE, Legal Program Director
Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Sitka, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 291.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[3:04:54 PM](#)

VICE CHAIR MATT CLAMAN called the House State Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. Representatives Tarr, Vance, Kaufman, Story, Kreiss-Tomkins (via teleconference), and Claman were present at the call to order.

HB 291-EXTENDING COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

[3:05:46 PM](#)

VICE CHAIR CLAMAN announced that the only order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 291, "An Act extending the termination date of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; and providing for an effective date."

VICE CHAIR CLAMAN opened public testimony on HB 291.

[3:06:53 PM](#)

MANDY COLE, Executive Director, Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies (AWARE), discussed the importance of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) and the vital role it played in AWARE's work. She explained that the CDVSA primarily acted as a funding agency, providing AWARE with the funds to do its day-to-day work and ensure the safety of

survivors. She said in terms of a granting partner, the CDVSA was uniquely positioned for its expertise on domestic violence and sexual assault, adding that its staff was incredibly understanding and knowledgeable. She pointed out that AWARE received funding from a variety of different agencies, many of which lacked the depth of knowledge that the CDVSA possessed. She shared an anecdotal example.

[3:09:13 PM](#)

CHRISTINE PATE, Legal Program Director, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA), spoke in support of HB 291 and the CDVSA's work, highlighting the critical role the council had in ending domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska. She shared personal anecdotes that illustrated ANDVSA's reliance on the council. She reported that the CDVSA provided over 50 percent of the funding for the legal program. Additionally, the CDVSA's support allowed for the development of a contract model, which increased the amount of people served by legal services.

[3:12:13 PM](#)

VICE CHAIR CLAMAN thanked Ms. Pate for her mentorship. After ascertaining that no one else wished to testify, he closed public testimony and announced that HB 291 was held over.

[3:13:06 PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House State Affairs Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.