

**HB**

**303**

**ALASKA NETWORK ON  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**  
*130 Seward, Rm 501 Juneau, Alaska 99801 (907) 586-3650 (907) 463-4493fx*

***Comments on HB303***  
April 1998

The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (Network) is the statewide coalition of community domestic violence and sexual assault intervention programs for Alaska. Twenty full member and five supporting member programs provide shelter, advocacy, crisis intervention, and, information and referral services to victims seeking assistance in ending the violence being perpetrated against them. The Network works to promote institutional and systemic change necessary to end violence against women.

The Network supports HB303 which extends the sunset date of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (Council) until June 30, 2002. The Council is instrumental in coordinating the governmental response to domestic violence and sexual assault. The Council brings together representatives from the departments of Public Safety, Law, Health and Social Services and Education as well as three members of the public to develop and implement state policy regarding the elimination of these egregious criminal acts.

The Council is also the conduit for both state and federal funds that are distributed to locally based community intervention and prevention programs. Anchorage, Barrow, Bethel, Cordova, Dillingham, Emmonak, Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Nome, Palmer, Seward, Sitka, Unalaska, and Valdez each have at least one program that receives funding through the Council.

With the passage of both the 1994 federal Violence Against Women Act and the 1996 state Domestic Violence Prevention and Victim Protection Act, the role of the Council has become more critical as more agencies and individuals have begun to work in a comprehensive fashion to actively address the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault. Please support the work of this necessary public safety council by supporting HB303.

REPRESENTATIVE KIM ELTON

MEMORANDUM

May 7, 1998

TO: Senator Tim Kelly, Chair  
Senate Rule Committee

FROM: Rep. Kim Elton

RE: HB 303, extending the termination date for the Council on  
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

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I would like to request that HB 303 be scheduled for a vote on the Senate floor at the earliest opportunity. The bill passed the House unanimously.

HB 303 extends the termination date of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to June 30, 2002. Without this bill, the council will "sunset" on June 30th of this year. While the council is given another year to conclude its affairs if it is sunsetted, it will be unable to qualify for \$1.3 million in federal funds which are distributed to local shelters for victim services.

The legislative audit of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault found that the council serves a public need and operates in the public interest. It recommended that the council be reauthorized and its termination date extended to the year 2002.

I have included a sponsor statement for your information. It shows how the council's role and responsibilities have grown significantly since 1996. A substantial increase in federal funding to the council reflects a broadened understanding of the serious financial and social costs of domestic violence in our nation. We must reauthorize the council to continue these efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

REPRESENTATIVE KIM ELTON

## HB 303

### Extending the termination date of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

#### Sponsor Statement

HB 303 extends the termination date of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault from June 30, 1998, to June 30, 2002.

The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault was established in 1981 to provide for the planning and coordination of a full range of services to victims, their families, and perpetrators of violence and sexual assault in Alaska. The council's statutory responsibilities are:

- To develop, implement, maintain and monitor domestic violence, sexual assault and crisis intervention and prevention programs, including educational programs and school curricula;
- To coordinate services provided by the Departments of Law, Education, Public Safety, Health and Social Services, as well as other state agencies and community groups dealing with domestic violence and sexual assault;
- To provide technical assistance to state and local agencies and community groups, as requested;
- To develop and implement a standardized data collection system on domestic violence and sexual assault, and crisis intervention and prevention;
- To receive and dispense state and federal money and award grants and contracts to qualified local community entities for domestic violence, sexual assault, and crisis intervention and prevention programs;
- To oversee and audit domestic violence and sexual assault programs which receive federal and/or state grant money;

- To consult with the Dept. of Health and Social Services in the formulation of standards and procedures for the delivery of services to victims of domestic violence by health care facilities and practitioners;
- To consult with the Alaska Police Standards Council and other police training programs to develop training programs regarding domestic violence for police officers and for correction, probation, and parole officers;
- To consult with public employers, school districts, the Alaska Supreme Court and prosecuting authorities who are required to provide continuing education courses in domestic violence to employees;
- To make an annual report to the governor on the activities of the council, including recommendations for legislation.

The council's role and responsibilities have grown significantly since 1996. The state has imposed additional responsibilities and federal funding has increased substantially. This expansion of responsibilities is a reflection of a broadened understanding of the financial and social costs of domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska communities in health care, corrections, police and court costs, as well as the long-term, negative effect on children who witness violence at home.

The 1997 legislative audit of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault found that the council serves a public need and operates in the public interest. The audit concluded that the council should be reauthorized and its termination date extended to June 30, 2002.