

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES

2007-2008

SHES

12

coordinated efforts within the local communities such as law enforcement agencies, tribal groups, social service providers, hospitals, schools, courts systems, among others.

To continue with its mission, the Council plans to work on strategic planning to assess the effectiveness of services currently being provided by grantees and other state and local entities. The overall goal of the plan is to identify and address existing gaps in service.

Determine the extent to which the board, commission, or agency duplicates the activities of another governmental agency or the private sector.

One of the Council's major objectives is the coordination of agencies, both state and local, that share the similar objective of combating the effects of domestic violence and sexual assault. No other agency is in a position to have an impact on this issue in this manner. Its existence is to help ensure that various agencies work together to effectively respond to Alaska's high rate of domestic violence and sexual assault. As a result, its activities do not duplicate the activities of the governmental agencies or the private sector.

Appendix A
 Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
 Schedule of Grants Awarded FY 03 through FY 06
 (unaudited)

	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06
Victim Services Program Grants				
Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (Anchorage)	\$ 843,816	\$ 805,816	\$ 805,816	\$ 828,616
Advocates for Victims of Violence (Valdez)	237,598	213,181	213,181	219,576
Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies (Juneau)	561,147	489,641	489,641	504,330
Alaska Family Services (Palmer)	418,486	418,486	418,486	453,573
Alaska Women's Resource Center (Anchorage)	215,636	197,836	197,836	199,634
Arctic Women in Crisis (Barrow)	244,703	242,571	242,571	249,848
Bering Sea Women's Group (Nome)	420,706	420,706	420,706	465,406
Cordova Family Resource Center	55,504	51,421	51,421	52,964
Emmonak Women's Services	180,855	183,599	183,599	-
Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living (Fairbanks)	694,296	679,296	679,296	702,642
Kodiak Women's Resource and Crisis Center	285,551	264,326	264,326	272,256
LeeShore Center (Kenai-Soldotna)	413,389	397,401	397,401	409,323
Safe and Fear-Free Environment (Dillingham)	353,716	330,116	330,116	385,116
Seaview Community Services (Seward)	77,811	77,811	77,811	80,145
Sitkans Against Family Violence	339,766	303,401	303,401	312,503
South Peninsula Women's Services (Homer)	273,145	249,091	249,091	283,555
Standing Together Against Rape (Anchorage)	436,706	396,706	396,706	412,789
Tundra Women's Coalition (Bethel)	625,809	608,133	608,133	704,133
Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence	133,607	123,001	123,001	126,691
Victims for Justice (Anchorage)	53,199	26,078	26,078	-
Women in Safe Homes (Ketchikan)	557,183	517,183	517,183	532,698
Total Victim Services Program Grants	7,422,629	6,995,800	6,995,800	7,195,800
Community Based Batterer Intervention Program Grants				
Alaska Family Services (Palmer)	\$ 57,000	\$ 55,812	\$ 55,812	\$ 55,812
Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living (Fairbanks)	68,500	67,312	67,312	67,312
Island Counseling Services (Sitka)	42,500	-	-	-
Ketchikan Indian Corporation	52,500	51,313	51,313	51,313
Sound Alternatives (Cordova)	-	-	-	-
South Peninsula Women's Services (Homer)	29,500	25,563	25,563	25,563
Tongass Community Counseling Center	70,000	-	-	-
Total Community Based Batterer Intervention Program Grants	320,000	200,000	200,000	200,000

Appendix A
 Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
 Schedule of Grants Awarded FY 03 through FY 06
 (unaudited)

	<u>FY03</u>	<u>FY04</u>	<u>FY05</u>	<u>FY06</u>
Prison Batterer Intervention Program Grants				
Alaska Family Services (Palmer)	\$ 40,000	\$ 56,589	\$ 56,589	\$ 56,589
Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living (Fairbanks)	25,386	41,648	41,648	41,648
Tongass Community Counseling Center (Juneau)	32,851	-	-	-
Total Prison Batterer Intervention Program Grants	<u>98,237</u>	<u>98,237</u>	<u>98,237</u>	<u>98,237</u>
Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grants				
Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	\$ 235,500	\$ 223,440	\$ 216,030	\$ 216,315
Dept. of Law Reimbursable Services Agreement	196,250	186,200	180,025	180,263
Dept. of Public Safety Reimbursable Services Agreement	196,250	186,200	180,025	180,263
Alaska Court System Reimbursable Services Agreement	39,250	37,240	36,005	36,052
Discretionary (See "Note" below)	78,500	111,720	108,015	108,157
Total VAWA Grants	<u>\$ 745,750</u>	<u>\$ 744,800</u>	<u>\$ 720,100</u>	<u>\$ 721,050</u>
TOTAL	<u><u>\$ 8,586,616</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 8,038,837</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 8,014,137</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 8,215,087</u></u>

Note: Between FY 02 through FY 05, the Council awarded the VAWA fund discretionary allocation to the Network, Wasilla Police Department, Safe and Fear-Free Environment (SAFE), South Peninsula Women's Services (SPWS), Aiding Women Against Rape Emergencies (AWARE), Tundra Women's Coalition (TWC), Standing Together Against Rape (STAR), and Bering Sea Women's Group (BSWG) for victim services projects



State of Alaska
Department of Public Safety
Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

Frank H. Murkowski, Governor
William Tandeske, Commissioner

December 21, 2005

Pat Davidson
Alaska State Legislature
Legislative Budget and Audit Committee
Division of Legislative Audit
P.O. Box 113300
Juneau, Alaska 99811-3300

RE: Preliminary Report Response, Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the findings and recommendations of the November 2005 audit.

The Council agrees with Recommendation No. 1, and has already entered into discussions with the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) about developing a closer working relationship consistent with the statutory mandate. In our initial contacts, for example, we determined that several years ago DEED collaborated with the Council on statewide teacher training. Currently DEED is developing modules on domestic violence and sexual assault (DVSA). DEED and the Council have already established a process for the Council to be included in reviewing those modules. We will collaborate through meetings, teleconferences, work groups, and other avenues as appropriate.

Regarding Recommendation No 1 and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHSS), the Council has begun targeted discussions regarding the interface between the DHSS programs and DVSA issues. Many of the DHSS program areas assist individuals and families with multiple problems including DVSA as it impacts families, children, and elders. In reviewing potential areas of coordination and planning, we have identified some areas that should provide for fruitful collaboration, including the development of program staff training and the possibility of requiring relevant training for service providers under contract with DHSS. We will continue to coordinate through teleconferences, meetings, and workgroups, as appropriate, to assess and prioritize the impact of DVSA issues within DHSS.

Regarding Recommendation No. 2, while the Council recognizes and understands the merit of this issue, it is important to note that the Governor is not bound by any recommendation made by the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (Network). Because of this safeguard, the Council believes that obtaining input from the Network, which has significant knowledge and expertise, outweighs any limitations or theoretical conflicts.

Finally, in general, the Council continues its strategic planning efforts, continues to explore grant and foundation funding for statewide domestic violence and sexual assault programs, and continues to strengthen and develop its own personnel and office resources.

We appreciate the work of the Division of Legislative Audit and look forward to working with you in the future.

Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
P.O. Box 111200 - Juneau, AK 99811 - Voice (907) 465-4356 - Fax (907) 465-3627

Sincerely,

Janna L. Stewart
CDVSA, Chair

Cc: CDVSA Board Members

Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
P.O. Box 111200 - Juneau, AK 99811 - Voice (907) 465-4356 - Fax (907) 465-3627

October 31, 2001

Members of the Legislative Budget
and Audit Committee:

In accordance with the provisions of Title 24 of the Alaska Statutes, the attached report is submitted for your review.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

October 31, 2001

12-20014-02

This audit was conducted as required by AS 44.66.050 and under the authority of AS 24.20.271(1). Alaska Statute 44.66.050(c) lists criteria to be used to assess the demonstrated public need for a given board, commission, agency, or program subject to the sunset review process. Currently under AS 44.66.010(a)(11), the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is scheduled to termination June 30, 2002. The council would have one year from that date to conclude operations.

In our opinion, the termination date for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault should be extended. The council serves a public need and is operating in the public's interest. We recommend that the legislature extend the council's termination date to June 30, 2006.

The audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Fieldwork procedures utilized in the course of developing the findings and discussion presented in this report are discussed in the Objectives, Scope, and Methodology section.

Pat Davidson, CPA
Legislative Auditor

OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY

In accordance with the intent of Titles 24 and 44 of the Alaska Statutes (sunset legislation), we have reviewed the activities of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (council) to determine whether it was operating in the best interest of the public and if it should be statutorily continued in operation. As required by AS 44.66.050(a), the committee of reference shall consider this report during the legislative oversight process to determine whether the council should be reestablished. Currently, under AS 44.66.010(a)(11) the council will terminate on June 30, 2002, and will have one year from that date to conclude its operation.

Objectives

There are two central, interrelated objectives of our report. They are:

1. To determine if the termination date of the council should be extended.
2. To determine if the council is operating in the public's interest. The assessment of the operations, and performance of the council, was based upon AS 44.66.050(c). This statute sets out criteria that are to be used in determining a demonstrated public need for the council.

Scope and Methodology

Our audit reviewed the operation and activities of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault for the period of FY 99 through the date of our report.

During the course of our examination, we reviewed and evaluated the following:

- Applicable statutes and regulations.
- Budget documents, session laws, and other legislative information related to the council's operations.
- The executive director's reading files.
- Minutes of council meetings.
- Grantee on-site monitoring performance and fiscal reviews prepared by council staff.
- Statistical reports submitted by grantees.
- Financial reports from the State Accounting System.
- Other documents related to the council's operations and mission, as necessary.

CORRECTION

**THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT(S)
HAVE BEEN REFILMED TO
ASSURE LEGIBILITY OR PAGINATION**



Rev. 6/98

Central Microfilm Services
Department of Education & Early Development
State of Alaska

October 31, 2001

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and Audit Committee:

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OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY

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- The executive director's reading files.
- Minutes of council meetings.
- Grantee on-site monitoring performance and fiscal reviews prepared by council staff.
- Statistical reports submitted by grantees.
- Financial reports from the State Accounting System.
- Other documents related to the council's operations and mission, as necessary.

In addition, we interviewed:

- Various council members and staff.
- Council grantees, school districts, judges, state troopers, police officers, and other individuals with whom council staff and council members consult and coordinate.
- Individuals from other state agencies.
- Council staff.

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION

The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (council) was established in the Department of Public Safety in 1981 by Alaska Statute 18.66. This statute gives the council the authority " ... *to provide for planning and coordination of services to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault or to their families and to perpetrators of domestic violence and sexual assault and to provide for crisis intervention and prevention programs.* "

The council consists of seven members, four of whom are the commissioners, or their designees, of the Departments of Public Safety, Health and Social Services, Education and Early Development, and Law. The balance of the council is comprised of persons from the public appointed at the governor's discretion.

By statute, before making appointments, the governor receives recommendations from and consults with the Alaska

Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (a non-profit, private organization) ¹

The council is staffed by an executive director, an administrative manager, three project coordinators, a statistical technician, an administrative assistant and an administrative clerk. The council is authorized to receive and disperse both state and federal funds. Traditionally a large part of the council's responsibilities involve administering grants made to local community organizations for domestic violence, sexual assault, and crisis intervention and prevention programs. Grant administration includes providing technical assistance and monitoring the activities of the various grantees and contractors.

The community programs funded by the council provide a variety of services to the public. Most importantly, their efforts are directed toward providing victims a safe environment either through housing at a community shelter, or the use of a network of designated "safe homes". Additionally, the programs are involved in educating and counseling the victim about domestic violence and sexual assault issues and providing batterers' intervention services.

The council's coordination role and responsibilities with other state and local agencies is extensive. In FY 02 the council approved funding to 21 community-based victim services programs, seven community-based batterers' intervention programs, and three prison-based batterers' programs. (See Appendix A.)

¹ The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is comprised of 20 programs, many of which are council funded programs. The network does annual training for members, acts as a legislative lobbying group, and sits as a non-voting member on council committees.

Council Members

As of September 20, 2001

Barbara Thompson, DEED, Chair
Cindy Cooper, DOLaw, Vice Chair
Mary Scheetz-Freymiller, Public Member
Diane Disanto, DHSS
Del Smith, Public Safety
Tammy Young, Public Member
Shirley Dean, Public Member

*terms expired August 1, 2001 however no replacement to date

Many of the grants issued by the council are supported by federal funds. Federal funds are received by the council from sources such as:

- Family Violence Prevention and Services Grants (CFDA 93 671)
US Department of Health and Human Services

The Family Violence Prevention Services Act provides federal funding to all states. This funding is used for domestic violence programs throughout Alaska. The programs receiving grants provide assistance to victims of domestic violence and their children. These programs operate shelter facilities which are staffed around the clock and provide a full spectrum of services, including basic food and immediate shelter, crisis intervention, counseling, and medical/legal/personal advocacy.

- Crime Victims Assistance (CFDA 16.575)
US Department of Justice

This grant authorizes financial compensation for victims of crime and financial support for state and local agencies that provide services to crime victims. This fund is a U.S. Treasury account generated entirely by the fines and penalties levied against criminals convicted of federal crimes. The majority of this funding is awarded directly to programs that provide services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes. In addition to funding programs, a portion of this grant is used to fund a Victim Services Coordinator position with the Department of Corrections.

- Violence Against Women Act (CFDA 16.588)
US Department of Justice

The grant services combine a series of federal sanctions and initiatives as well as national, state, and local resources to improve the response to crimes against women. These funds are delineated to four specific areas: prosecution, law enforcement, victim services, and discretionary. In April 1995, Governor Knowles designated the council as the lead agency for the coordination and management of the Violence Against Women Act funds for the State of Alaska.

To accomplish this mission, the statewide Violence Against Women Planning and Implementation Committee was created. The membership of the Planning and Implementation Committee includes representatives from the court system; Department of Corrections; Maternal, Child and Family Health, Department of Health and Social Services; Department of Law; Department of Public Safety; Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; Alaska Judicial Council; and Violence Against Indian Women grantee. The council is responsible for funding distribution and subrecipient monitoring of these projects.

REPORT CONCLUSIONS

Under AS 18.66, the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (council) is authorized to provide for the State's planning and coordination of the full range of services to victims, their families, and perpetrators of domestic violence and sexual assault. Combating domestic violence and sexual assault is identified as an ongoing priority at both the state and national level.

Aside from the operational concerns addressed in this report, the council is serving a public need and is operating in the public's interest. Currently, AS 44.66.010(a)(11) requires that the council be terminated on June 30, 2002. We recommend the legislature extend the council's termination date to June 30, 2006.

The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (Network), a nonprofit organization, and the council often work jointly or contractually on statewide projects to strengthen the state's response to violence against women. This joint effort has had a positive impact. However, we recommend that the council reconsider the nature of its working relationship with Network.

The council needs to establish clear and distinctive roles for the council members and staff, and the Network. These roles must be consistent with the governor's directive for the council's programmatic and administrative oversight of federal funding. As a recipient of council funds, it is inappropriate for the Network to have a legally mandated role in recommending the public members of the council to the governor for selection. (See Recommendations Nos. 1 and 2.)

Statutory changes implemented July 1, 1996, significantly increased the scope of the council's responsibilities. Between FY 98 and FY 01, the council's budgeted staff increased from four to eight positions. However, the council has been unable to or ineffective in addressing some of their statutory responsibilities, in part due to administrative shortcomings. (See Recommendations Nos. 3, 4 and 5.)

Other council weaknesses addressed in recent legislative audits and not readdressed in this audit include the following:

1. Department of Public Safety, Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Batterer Intervention Programs February 9, 2001 (Audit Control Number 12-4606-01).

The Batterer Intervention Programs audit contained five recommendations relating to the council. These recommendations primarily addressed the following concerns:

- Due to a lack of data, none of the specific operational questions concerning batterers and the effectiveness of batterer intervention programs could be fully answered.

- Due to the absence of written procedures, council staff was not able to perform their job duties consistently and successfully. Specifically, the council does not have policies and procedures in reviewing, evaluating, and monitoring batterer intervention programs.
- Batterers are not adequately monitored, either not attending, or not completing batterer intervention programs, and programmatic noncompliance issues are not being fully addressed.

2. Statewide Single Audit for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2000 – July 16, 2001 (Audit Control Number 02-40001-01).

The statewide single audit contained five recommendations to the executive director of the council. These recommendations primarily addressed the need to improve the monitoring and management of federal funds being provided to subrecipient grantees.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation No. 1

The legislature should amend the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's statutes related to appointment of council members.

The Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (Network) both recommends public members to serve on the council and receives grant funds from the council. The council consists of four state officials and three public members appointed by the governor. Alaska Statute 18.66.020(a)(1) relating to the appointment of public members states:

The council consists of three persons appointed by the governor after consultation with the Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, a nonprofit corporation; The Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault shall submit a list to the governor of persons recommended for appointment.

In addition, AS 18.66.020(b) states, in part:

...A vacancy on the council shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment by the governor after consultation with the Network on Domestic Violence.

The council annually grants funds to the Network for a legal advocacy project. Grant monies are provided by federal funds associated with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The council awarded VAWA funding to the Network as shown in Exhibit 1 (right) for FY 00 through FY 02.

An apparent conflict of interest exists when a council member reviews, evaluates, approves, and monitors a grant to the same non-profit corporation which was responsible for recommending that individual to the council membership.

The apparent conflict of interest continues because the council member would likely benefit from ongoing support from the Network when being considered for reappointment to the council. This situation may result in inappropriate decisions by the council, as the Network will be interested in the sustainability of their agency.

Exhibit 1 Violence Against Women Act Grants to the Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	
<u>Grant</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>FY 00:</u>	
00-VAWA-01	\$ 109,142
00-VAWA-02	233,143
Total FY 00:	\$ <u>342,285</u>
<u>FY 01:</u>	
01-VAWA-01	\$ 73,842
01-VAWA-02	235,874
Total FY 01:	\$ <u>309,716</u>
<u>FY 02:</u>	
02-VAWA-01	\$ <u>356,626</u>

The appearance of a personal conflict of interest on the part of the council's public members may arise from a combination of elements.

- The Network has a specific legally mandated role in the selection and retention of public members to the council.
- The Network is a subgrantee of the council and therefore competes with other programs for council funding.

Potentially biased questions in the Network's *"Interview Questions for Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Public Member Applicants"* read as: "What do you see as the role of the council public member in relation to the Network?" Examples of specialized treatment for the Network are discussed in Recommendation 2.

It is entirely appropriate for the governor to consult with any interested parties when making appointments to the council. However, it is the statutory mandate for the governor to consult with the Network, over the appointment of public members, when the Network itself is a subgrantee of the council that raises an appearance of a conflict of interest.

Therefore, we recommend the legislature amend the AS 18.66.020 to 1) eliminate the mandate for the Network to recommend individuals to the governor for appointment to the council, and 2) eliminate the requirement for the governor to consult with the Network on the appointment or reappointment of the council's public members.

Recommendation No. 2

The council should define and communicate clear and distinctive roles for the council members and staff in dealing with the Network. The council should adhere to these roles in their federal grant oversight of the Network.

As stated in Recommendation No. 1, the council annually grants monies to the Network for a legal advocacy project using federal VAWA funds. Review of council grant information identified some impropriety as follows:

1. For FY 01, the Network modified the final grant contract prohibiting the council from reviewing all records (limiting the council's review to financial records only). Such modification is in violation of the federal Common Rule for Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants (A-102).
2. For FY 00, requests for reimbursement from the Network were not supported by sufficient documentation of expenditures. Council staff disbursed funds based on these requests, which is in violation of federal allowable cost principles (A-87).
3. For FY 00 and FY 01, the Network was excluded from the monitoring schedule established by the council. This is in violation of federal Common Rule (A-102) requirements codified at 28 CFR 66.40.

Each of these actions severely limited the council's review of the Network's activities. This limitation affected the council's ability to carry out its responsibility outlined in a letter from Governor Knowles dated April 15, 1995. In this letter, the governor designates "...*Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (council) as the state agency in Alaska that will have programmatic and administrative oversight of Violence Against Women Act funds.*" In making this designation, the governor required that "*[i]n developing its plan for use of Violence Against Women Act funds, the council must actively involve the Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in all stages of the process.*"

The council has complied with the governor's condition to actively involve the Network in the development of the VAWA plan. However, the council must keep in mind that the governor designated the council to have programmatic and administrative oversight of VAWA funds. As the pass-through agency for the federal VAWA funding, the council bears ultimate responsibility for the administration of those funds. Without adequate oversight, errors or improprieties may be committed by grantees and not detected by the council.

The Network and the council often work jointly or contractually on statewide projects to strengthen the state's response to violence against women. These joint efforts have a positive impact. However, in its working relationship with the Network, we recommend that the council define clear and distinctive roles for the council members and staff. These roles should be defined in manner consistent with federal grant requirements and the governor's directive for programmatic and administrative oversight.

Recommendation No. 3

The legislature should amend AS 18.66.050 referring to the council hiring staff, and the council should address personnel issues and promote strong leadership by the executive director.

Alaska Statute 18.66.050(1) states that "*[t]he council shall hire an executive director and necessary staff.*" This statute adds confusion to the council's lines of authority. In order for the executive director to have authority over the staff, it is critical for staff to have only one leader.

Administrative weaknesses were identified throughout the course of our fieldwork. These weaknesses primarily relate to lines of authority and job responsibilities, and are further explained below:

1. Confusion regarding lines of authority. Confusion exists regarding lines of authority between council members, the executive director, council staff and representatives of the Network. Staff members have apprised the council members about their concerns with the council organizational structure and travel restrictions due to budgetary concerns without going through the executive director.

Additionally, staff identified instances when the council members directly contacted them without first going through the executive director. Finally, the council's staff

may directly contact, or be contacted by, Network personnel regarding a specific issue or responsibility without the knowledge of the executive director.

Because so many individuals affect the responsibilities of council staff, it is imperative that the council set the priorities and policies, and the executive director manage the staff to ensure these priorities and policies are addressed. This will allow the council members to observe the program functioning as a whole, not on a microscopic level. An executive director with strong leadership abilities, whose administration is supported by all council members, would help to establish clear lines of authority.

2. Lack of definitive duties, policies and procedures. The three associate coordinator positions have broad position descriptions that are identical.² The position descriptions state that:

"Because of the limited number of staff, the on-going responsibilities assigned to any one position may be focused in one program area; however, the staff is expected to know and be able to perform or assist with the activities in any program areas."

With broad position descriptions, more specific directives defined in an agency procedure or desk manual are critical to ensure that personnel have a clear understanding of their responsibilities and priorities. Not only did we find that staff members were having difficulty addressing their responsibilities, a lack of prioritizing was also evident. These coordinator positions are responsible for the development, coordination, evaluation/monitoring and technical assistance of new and existing programs to ensure regulatory and policy compliance.

Between FY 98 and FY 01, the council's budgeted staff has increased 100% (from four to eight individuals). As stated in AS 18.66.050, the council's broad statute regarding the hiring of staff adds to the confusion with lines of authority. Although the council may hire the staff, the staff report to the executive director and should take direction solely from the executive director. The executive director needs strong leadership skills that emphasize teamwork and open communication among the council staff. For the executive director, leadership skills are as critical as program background in domestic violence and sexual assault.

Explicit documentation of each individual's responsibilities would allow the executive director of the council to hold staff accountable for their actions and their job duties. The council members should also provide clear guidance to the executive director and work through the executive director when addressing issues with the staff.

We recommend that the legislature change AS 18.66.050 to state:

² Position control numbers 12-0087, 12-0071 and 12-0070 have the same description of duties.

"[t]he council shall hire an executive director, and the executive director shall hire staff as identified in budgetary documents."

We recommend that the council promote and support strong leadership authority with the executive director. We also recommend that the executive director develop council personnel policies, procedures, and desk manuals (or update position description questionnaires) to describe the tasks of the individuals in each position. Once staff roles are established, the executive director should provide cross-training and encourage communication and teambuilding.

Recommendation No. 4

The council should address statutory responsibilities that relate to consultation with the Department of Health and Social Services (AS 18.66.050 (12)) and other entities and organizations (AS 18.66.050 (14)).

The council's statute was amended effective July 1, 1996 to include new requirements. Two of these new requirements have not been addressed. Alaska Statute 18.66.050(12) and (14) state that the council shall:

(12) consult with the Department of Health and Social Services in the formulation of standards and procedures for delivery of services to victims of domestic violence by health care facilities and practitioners of healing arts and personnel in those facilities as required in AS 18.66.300.

(14) consult with public employers, the Alaska Supreme Court, school districts, and prosecuting authorities who are required by AS 18.66.300 - 18.66.310 to provide continuing education courses in domestic violence to employees.

Both of these statutes discuss the council working with other agencies and public employers to develop standards, procedures, and continuing education courses. However, due to personnel deficiencies (see Recommendation No. 3) and lack of prioritization, the council has been unable to fully address these areas. We recommend that the council prioritize their responsibilities and determine a means to efficiently implement AS 18.66.050(12) and AS 18.66.050(14).

Recommendation No. 5

Council members and the executive director should consult with the Department of Education and Early Development, school district representatives, and grantees who have worked toward curriculum development to create a comprehensive standardized curriculum to be used within the schools across the state.

The council's approach to domestic violence and sexual assault education within the school districts is inconsistent and inadequate. There is a need for a more coordinated effort towards

education in school districts throughout the state. The council has left the responsibility for education in the schools to the grantees. The grantees have varying degrees of success in gaining access to their local schools, and use a variety of methods in attempting to address the need for domestic violence and sexual assault education within the schools.

Alaska Statute 18.66.050 states, in part, that:

The council shall (3) in consultation with authorities in the field, develop, implement, maintain, and monitor domestic violence, sexual assault, and crisis intervention and prevention programs, including education programs....and school curricula on the cause, prevention, and treatment of domestic violence and sexual assault. [emphasis added]

The council has avoided developing and implementing a standardized curriculum in an attempt to respect the autonomy of its victim services grantees. This has been the council's overall strategy in victim services program issues, where the individual grantees are better able to assess the needs of their communities. The grantees each have their own method of approaching education within their local schools. Some grantees simply send advocates to speak to a classroom when invited by the teacher. Other grantees have attempted to develop a K-12 curriculum for use within their local schools.

Development of a standardized curriculum can be an overwhelming task for a small or rural program whose resources are already stretched to the limit. Many grantees lack the expertise needed to approach the development of a curriculum for children that covers such extremely sensitive subjects as domestic violence and sexual assault.

We recommend the council consult with the Department of Education and Early Development, school district representatives, and grantees who have worked toward curriculum development to create a comprehensive standardized curriculum to be used within the schools across the state.

Prior Sunset Audit Recommendation No. 1

The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's (council) executive director should continue to improve administrative procedures to adequately satisfy duties of the council.

Prior Finding

Due to increasing responsibilities and a limited number of staff positions, the council experienced deficiencies in carrying out its administrative and statutory responsibilities during FY 97. The lack of staff availability to carry out the full scope of the council's duties was further aggravated by staff turnover and extended illnesses. Weaknesses identified were as follows:

1. Data collected from grantees has not been processed since February 1997.

2. The annual report to the governor for FY 96 had not been completed.
3. On-site monitoring of grantees was not performed and reported in a timely manner.

Current Status

Administrative weaknesses continue to exist, though to a lesser degree than existed during the prior sunset audit. The current status of the prior year sunset recommendation is as follows:

1. Data collection - substantially implemented. The council implemented a statewide data collection system in July 2000. Some grantees expressed dissatisfaction with the new data system and felt that the forms were confusing and had too many categories. Some grantees feel that the system requires duplicative work by grantee staff. There are concerns on the validity of the data and how to measure outcomes. However, others feel that the system is easy, accurate and provides consistent data reporting. Overall, there is a critical need for coordinated statewide standardized measurement and recording of statistical data across agency lines. Statistics are needed to accurately provide information to decision makers.
2. Timeliness of annual reports – some improvement. Although reports prior to FY 00 have been untimely, the annual report for FY 00 was completed timely and posted on the council website.
3. On-site monitoring – some improvement. An on-site monitoring schedule has been established and on-site monitoring of most grantees has been performed. However, while the council has improved in the consistency and timeliness of their on-site monitoring, this monitoring was limited to primarily programmatic issues. The council failed to monitor its grantees who were subrecipients of federal grant funds for compliance with federal requirements. Weaknesses regarding federal compliance subrecipient monitoring issues were identified in the Statewide Single Audit for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2000 (Audit Control Number 02-40001-01).

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ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC NEED

The following analysis of the council's activities relates to the public need factors defined in the "sunset" law, AS 44.66.050. These analyses are not intended to be comprehensive, but address those areas we were able to cover within the scope of our review.

Determine the extent to which the board, commission, or agency has operated in the public interest.

The council has awarded and administered grant funds to local community organizations and programs that provide services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, batterer intervention services to perpetrators of domestic violence, and crisis intervention and prevention programs. Although the presentation element of the funding meeting is not generally accepted and approved by all the grantees, the council's grant award process is objective, and grantees are treated equally in the process. Public participation was encouraged, and legislative intent was considered in the funding process. The council strives to treat urban and rural participants fairly throughout the grant award process. The council exercises oversight and performs on-site audits of most grant recipients. However, some exceptions were identified for the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. (See Recommendation No. 2.)

The council coordinates the efforts of many state and community agencies working toward a comprehensive statewide system to combat domestic violence and sexual assault. Overall, we conclude that the council is performing its coordination duties.

The council provides technical assistance in various forms to state agencies, law enforcement agencies, grantees, and community groups on a regular basis.

The council has provided funds to assist in the development of training materials and participation in training events relating to domestic violence and sexual assault. This training has been used by law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judicial officers. Upon request, council staff is available to state and local law enforcement agencies to consult on training matters.

The council produces public service announcements for distribution statewide, and provides domestic violence and sexual assault education on a local level through its grantees. The council maintains a lending library with educational and reference materials available that are both adequate and appropriate to address the cause, prevention, and treatment of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The council consults with the Department of Health and Social Services, Section of Maternal Child and Family Health, on the Alaska Family Violence Prevention Project (AFVPP) to increase awareness and community capacity to prevent and intervene in family violence. AFVPP provides multidisciplinary training and technical assistance on family violence for

health and social service providers and communities across the state. During the last year, in collaboration with the council, AFVPP conducted domestic violence/child abuse workshops in fifteen rural communities across the state. Although they have collaborated on issues such as this, the council and AFVPP have not addressed the statutory mandate in AS 18.66.050(12). (See Recommendation No. 4.)

Determine the extent to which the operations of the board has been impeded or enhanced by existing statutes, procedures, and practices, which it has adopted, and any other matter, including budgetary, resource, and personnel matters.

There are a variety of issues that have had an impact on the operations of the council. Our primary concerns involve the following:

1. Personnel issues. For some time, the council has been facing personnel issues resulting from new positions, new statutory and federal grant responsibilities, and turnover. The executive director should develop council personnel policies, procedures, and desk manuals to describe the tasks of the individuals in each position and to adjust for increased responsibilities and other changes. There also were other personnel issues that existed between the former executive director and council staff (See Recommendation No. 3).
2. Statutes related to composition of the council. The council should consider including a representative from the Department of Corrections as either a full council member, or as an advisor, to increase awareness of batterer programs. Some council members would also like to see additional public members. Because the Network has been receiving grant funds from the council, the legislature should consider amending AS 18.66.020 by 1) removing the clause that requires the Network to make recommendations for public members on the council to the governor, and 2) delete the requirement that the governor consult with the council regarding initial and reappointment of public members to the council. (See Recommendation No. 1.)
3. Program reporting requirements. AS 18.66.050(10) requires the council to submit an annual report to the governor, and notify the legislature about the availability of the report. Although the statute is silent if such a report is to be based on the calendar or fiscal year, customarily the council has submitted reports on a fiscal year basis. Although the reports for FY 97 through FY 99 were not provided to the governor in a timely manner, the FY 00 annual report was. (See Prior Sunset Audit Recommendation No. 1)
4. Data collection process. The council implemented a statewide data collection system in July 2000. Some grantees expressed dissatisfaction with the new data system and felt that the forms were confusing and had too many categories. Some grantees feel that the system requires duplicative work by grantee staff. There are concerns on the validity of the data and how to measure outcomes. However, others feel that the system is easy, accurate and provides consistent data reporting. Overall, there is a

critical need for coordinated statewide standardized measurement and recording of statistical data across agency lines. Statistics are needed to accurately provide information to decision makers. (See Prior Sunset Audit Recommendation No. 1)

Determine the extent to which the board has recommended statutory changes that are generally of benefit to the public interest.

The council is generally asked by other agencies to review statutory changes contained in proposed legislation. Typically, council members and staff review and comment on proposed legislation rather than developing and seeking support for its own measures. The council discusses pertinent bills and decides which legislation the council should support, remain neutral, or oppose. The executive director develops, analyzes, and testifies on bills at the direction of the council. The Network is also actively involved in domestic violence and sexual assault related legislation, and provides an update of pertinent legislation at council meetings.

Determine the extent to which the board, commission or agency has encouraged interested persons to report to it concerning the effect of its regulations and decisions on the effectiveness of services, economy of service, and availability of services that it has provided.

The council encourages interested parties to comment on its decisions or regulations by publicly announcing its meetings. The council holds at least four meetings per year, normally in Anchorage or Juneau. Meetings held in Juneau are typically teleconferenced statewide. The council also encourages input from the Network regarding its policies.

Determine the extent to which the board has encouraged public participation in the making of its regulations and decisions.

The council encourages public participation by advertising meetings and teleconferences and by posting the council's meeting schedule on their website. Time is provided on the agenda of every public meeting for public comment. The council works with the Network and their membership in the development of regulations and policy decisions.

Determine the efficiency with which public inquiries or complaints regarding the activities of the board, commission, or agency filed with it, with the department to which a board or commission is administratively assigned, or with the Office of the Ombudsman have been processed and resolved.

We found no problems in this area. Complaint procedures are in place, followed when complaints are made, and files are maintained. No complaint activity was noted.

Determine the extent to which state personnel practices, including affirmative action requirements, have been complied with by the board to its own activities and the area of activity or interest.

No complaints against the council were identified.

Determine the extent to which statutory, regulatory, budgeting or other changes are necessary to enable the board to better serve the interest of the public and to comply with the factors enumerated in this subsection.

The council has left the responsibility for education within the schools to their grantees. The grantees have varying degrees of success in gaining access to their local schools and use a variety of methods in attempting to address the need for domestic violence and sexual assault education within the schools. There is a need for a more coordinated effort towards education in school districts across the state. The council should consult with the Department of Education and Early Development, school district representatives and grantees who have worked toward curriculum development to create a comprehensive standardized curriculum to be used within schools across the state. (See Recommendation No. 5.)

Identify the problems or the needs that the programs and activities of the council are intended to address.

Per AS 18.66.010, the council's purpose is to provide for planning and coordination of services to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault or to their families, to perpetrators of domestic violence and sexual assault, and to provide for crisis intervention and prevention programs.

Identify any other programs having similar, conflicting or duplicate objectives.

One of the council's major objectives is the coordination of agencies, both state and local, that share the similar objective of combating the effects of domestic violence and sexual assault. No other agency is in a position to have an impact on this issue in this manner. Its existence is to help ensure that the various agencies work together to effectively respond to Alaska's high rate of domestic violence and sexual assault.

APPENDIX A

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Appendix A
Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Schedule of Grants Awarded FY 99 through FY 02
(unaudited)

	<u>FY 99</u>	<u>FY 00</u>	<u>FY 01</u>	<u>FY 02</u>
Victim Services Grants				
Advocates for Victims of Violence (Valdez)	\$ 204,810	\$ 209,810	\$ 212,970	\$ 213,181
Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (Anchorage)	792,900	753,255	795,605	795,816
Aiding Women from Abuse and Rape Emergencies (Juneau)	486,725	481,925	489,430	489,641
Arctic Women in Crisis (Barrow)	239,655	-0-	242,360	242,571
Alaska Women's Resource Center (Anchorage)	194,920	190,120	197,625	197,836
Bering Sea Women's Group (Nome)	417,790	417,790	420,495	420,706
Cordova Family Resource Center	48,505	41,505	51,210	51,421
Emmonak Women's Center	147,025	150,525	153,685	180,885
Kenai/Soldotna Women's Resource and Crisis Center	394,485	388,595	397,190	669,296
Kodiak Women's Resource and Crisis Center	261,410	257,182	264,115	397,401
North Slope Borough	-0-	232,655	-0-	-0-
Safe and Fear-Free Environment (Dillingham)	317,200	317,200	319,905	264,326
Sitkans Against Family Violence	300,485	298,094	303,190	320,116
Seward Life Action Council	74,895	73,787	77,600	303,401
South Peninsula Women's Services (Homer)	246,175	242,251	248,880	77,811
Standing Together Against Rape (Anchorage)	383,790	376,114	386,495	249,091
Tundra Women's Coalition (Bethel)	564,885	566,385	569,545	386,706
Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence	120,085	120,085	122,790	584,547
Victims for Justice (Anchorage)	72,545	68,918	72,078	123,001
Valley Women's Resource Center (Palmer)	415,570	407,259	418,275	26,078
Interior Alaska Center for Non- Violent Living (formerly Women in Crisis - Counseling and Assistance - Fairbanks)	666,380	661,580	669,085	418,486
Women in Safe Homes (Ketchikan)	<u>494,265</u>	<u>489,465</u>	<u>496,972</u>	<u>497,183</u>
Total Victim Services Grants	<u>\$ 6,844,500</u>	<u>\$ 6,744,500</u>	<u>\$ 6,909,500</u>	<u>\$ 6,909,500</u>
Community Based Batterer Intervention Programs				
Male Awareness Program				
(Anchorage)	\$ 90,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ -0-
Sound Alternatives (Cordova)	11,000	11,000	11,000	15,000
South Peninsula Women's Services (Homer)	27,000	23,000	23,000	27,000
	<u>FY 99</u>	<u>FY 00</u>	<u>FY 01</u>	<u>FY 02</u>

Appendix A
Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Schedule of Grants Awarded FY 99 through FY 02
(unaudited)

Community Based Batterer Intervention Programs - Continued

Tongass Community Counseling Center (Juneau)	68,000	67,500	67,500	67,500
IAC Women In Crisis Counseling Center (Fairbanks)	50,000	50,000	50,000	66,000
SE Islands Violence Prevention Program - Wrangell/Petersburg	31,000	29,000	29,000	-0-
Sitka Prevention and Treatment Services	-0-	39,500	39,500	-0-
Islands Counseling Services (Sitka)	-0-	-0-	-0-	40,000
Ketchikan Indian Corporation (Ketchikan)	-0-	20,000	20,000	50,000
Valley Women's Resource Center (Palmer)	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>54,500</u>
Total Community Based Batterer Intervention Programs	<u>\$ 277,000</u>	<u>\$ 320,000</u>	<u>\$ 320,000</u>	<u>\$ 320,000</u>

Prison Batterer Intervention Program Grants

Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living (formerly Women in Crisis - Counseling and Assistance - Fairbanks)	\$ 39,200	\$ 39,200	\$ 39,200	\$ 24,137
Tongass Community Counseling Center (Juneau)	34,100	34,100	34,100	34,100
Valley Women's Resource Center (Palmer)	<u>24,937</u>	<u>24,937</u>	<u>24,937</u>	<u>40,000</u>
Total Prison Batterer Intervention Program Grants	<u>\$ 98,237</u>	<u>\$ 98,237</u>	<u>\$ 98,237</u>	<u>\$ 98,237</u>

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant

Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	\$ 225,354	\$ 342,285	\$ 309,716	\$ 356,624
Department of Law Reimbursable Services Agreement	176,585	179,535	72,578	Sec "Note"
Alaska Court System Reimbursable Services Agreement	52,572	41,681	31,664	Sec "Note"
Department of Public Safety Reimbursable Services Agreement	<u>54,525</u>	<u>232,155</u>	<u>116,666</u>	<u>Sec "Note"</u>
Total VAWA Grant	<u>\$ 509,036</u>	<u>\$ 795,656</u>	<u>\$ 530,624</u>	<u>\$ 356,624</u>

TOTAL	<u>\$ 7,219,737</u>	<u>\$ 7,162,737</u>	<u>\$ 7,327,737</u>	<u>\$ 7,327,737</u>
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Note: Amounts have not yet been determined

December 21, 2001

Ms. Pat Davidson, CPA
Legislative Auditor
Division of Legislative Audit
P.O. Box 113300
Juneau, AK 99811-3300

Dear Ms. Davidson:

This letter is in response to the Preliminary Audit Report, Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Department of Public Safety, Dated October 31, 2001 and transmittal letter dated December 6, 2001. The Department's positions are stated below each findings and recommendation.

Recommendation No. 1

The legislature should amend the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's statutes related to appointment of council members.

CDVSA Response: Do not Agree

As stated in the response to the management letter dated November 14, 2001 the Council does not agree that Alaska Statute 18.66.020 needs to be amended. The Governor is not required to appoint public members solely from the names submitted by the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA). The statute requires the Governor to "consult" with ANDVSA, but does not mandate that the Governor accept the names submitted. The Governor has the authority to appoint a person not recommended, provided he "consults" with ANDVSA.

ANDVSA is the only statewide coalition for the issues involving domestic violence and sexual assault. ANDVSA works closely with the programs on a statewide basis and is, aside from the Council itself, the organization most familiar with these important societal issues. It is entirely appropriate for a Governor to ask those with the most knowledge, expertise and involvement in a particular field to submit names for consideration for appointment to boards and/or commissions. We further disagree that an appearance of a personal conflict of interest exists on the part of the appointment or reappointment of public members. The fact that the Council awards grant money to ANDVSA does not mean that public member is indebted to ANDVSA. Public members are devoted to the issue, the cause, and public service. If the Governor believes a public member is

doing a good job, he can reappoint the person even if ANDVSA recommends against it. The Executive Ethics act does not preclude persons with interest in a field from serving on boards and commissions; rather, it requires that they have no direct financial conflict of interest. ANDVSA has never nominated, nor has the Governor's Office ever named, anyone who was an employee or officer of ANDVSA. Rather, public members have been persons active in domestic violence or sexual assault issues in their local communities. Public members are also required to step down from any involvement in their local programs during their service on the Council.

Recommendation No. 2

The council should define and communicate clear and distinctive roles for the council members and staff in dealing with the Network. The council should adhere to these roles in their federal grant oversight of the Network.

CDVSA Response: Partially Agree

1. In FY01, ANDVSA modified their final grant contract relating to access to all records to reflect financial records only. This change was not noticed by Council staff or approved by the Council. In FY02, ANDVSA formally requested that the Council change the grant contract condition that allows the Council to review all records. ANDVSA asked the Council review only the financial records. The request was made during the quarterly Council public meeting of September 11, 2001. **The Council denied this request on record in the meeting.**
2. CDVSA will adhere to federal allowable cost principles (A87) by addressing the reimbursement documentation during on-site monitoring activities and through review of financial documentation and by requesting clarification on questionable expenditures.
3. ANDVSA and other VAWA grantees are being included in the on-site monitoring and evaluation schedule for FY02 and FY03.

At every meeting the Council reviews VAWA expenditures, so the Council is aware of what is going on. To ensure initial approval, the VAWA committee will submit the plan to the Council for final review and approval. The Council's initial review and approval will be consistent with the Governor's directive, April 15, 1995, on programmatic and administrative oversight.

The Council will communicate the roles of the Council to staff and the Network consistent with the federal grant requirements and the governor's directive for programmatic and administrative oversight.

Recommendation No. 3

The legislature should amend AS 18.66.050 referring to the council hiring staff, and the council should address personnel issues and promote strong leadership by the executive director.

CDVSA Response: Partially Agree

1. Confusion regarding lines of authority. The Council acknowledges some confusion existed recently and is working towards assuring the correct level of authority of the executive director and the role of the staff.
2. Lack of definitive duties, policies and procedures. The three associate coordinator positions have position descriptions that are identical. This will allow the Council to have all three coordinators work as a team to design, coordinate, conduct evaluations, monitor the programs, plus offer technical assistance to new and existing programs. This will further allow the staff to be cross-trained and work in a cohesive team environment with the executive director being the supervisor and leader of the team.

The Council does not agree that AS 18.66.050 needs to be modified. The Council has never been involved in hiring of staff. The Council recognized that hiring of staff is the responsibility appropriately placed with the executive director. Guidance from the Council to the executive director and the further development of personnel policies, procedures and desk manuals and where necessary, updating position descriptions, will adequately address any previous confusion.

Recommendation No. 4

The Council should address statutory responsibilities that relate to consultation with the Department of Health and Social Services (AS 18.66.050(12) and other entities and organizations (AS 18.66.050(14)).

CDVSA Response: Agree

The Council agrees that we should be working with these other agencies and public employers in developing standards and provide information and education surrounding the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault. We will strive to meet this recommendation.

Ms. Pat Davidson, CPA
December 21, 2001
Page 4

Recommendation No. 5

Council members and the executive director should consult with the Department of Education and Early Development, school district representatives, and grantees who have worked toward curriculum development to create a comprehensive standardized curriculum to be used within the schools across the state.

CDVSA Response: Agree

The Council agrees that we should be working with the Department of Education and Early Development, school district representatives, and grantees to develop a comprehensive standardized curriculum to be used in schools across the state. The difficulty comes when developing a standardized curriculum with such cross-culture and diversified populations throughout the state and getting school districts to agree to include the curriculum material in their classrooms.

Sincerely,

Glenn G. Godfrey
Commissioner

January 11, 2002

Members of the Legislative Budget
and Audit Committee:

We have reviewed the Department of Public Safety's response to our audit. Nothing contained in the response has provided sufficient information to persuade us to remove or revise our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Pat Davidson
Legislative Auditor



State of Alaska

Department of Public Safety

Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

Sarah Palin, Governor
Walt Monegan, Commissioner

March 27, 2007

Representative Anna Fairclough
State Capitol, Room 411
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Fairclough:

The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault supports HB 215, "An Act relating to the establishment of a task force to review the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault."

Domestic violence and sexual assault are pervasive and heinous offenses against persons, many times perpetrated by people the victims know and trust. As noted in the HB215 findings, the Alaska rates of these offenses are among the highest in the nation. These are shameful statistics. It is imperative for Alaska to have the most effective public policies and effective operations at work to prevent victimization, provide safety and hold perpetrators accountable.

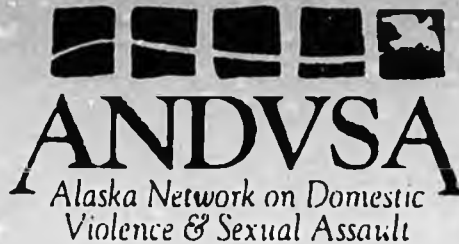
The Council welcomes the appointment of a task force that will focus upon improving its functions. We look forward to working with a team dedicated to finding more efficient and effective ways to provide this important public service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Ashenbrenner".

Chris Ashenbrenner
Interim Program Administrator

Juneau Office
130 Seward St #209
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: (907) 586-3650
Fax: (907) 463-4493
www.andvsa.org



Sitka Office
PO Box 6631
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Phone: (907) 747-7545
Fax: (907) 747-7547

March 27, 2007

The Honorable Rep. Anna Fairclough
State Capitol Bldg. Room 411
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Representative Fairclough,

The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) would like to thank you for introducing House Bill 215, "An Act relating to the establishment of a task force to review the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA)". ANDVSA strongly supports the task force concept. The "Council" and the "Network" have a long history of working together.

In early 1980 the Network helped create the Council, which became operative in late 1981 within the Department of Public Safety. The Council was created to be the agency responsible for administering domestic violence and sexual assault programs, monitoring those programs, providing technical assistance, promulgating regulations, and allocating funds. The 1981/82 legislative session was the first one for both ANDVSA and CDVSA, both in terms of legislation passed and funding appropriated.

Here we are twenty-six years later; the Council is an established administrative body with clearly defined roles, responsibilities, and goals. As a state, we have seen tremendous change in the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors of Alaskans around the issue of domestic and sexual violence. All of us would benefit from reflecting upon how we are meeting/ not meeting the needs of victims of domestic and sexual violence in Alaska. We appreciate the willingness of a task force to take the time to reflect on what is done well and upon what can be improved to meet the needs of victims, victim service providers, communities, state agencies and policymakers.

Sincerely,

Peggy Brown
Executive Director

Cc: Chris Ashenbrenner
Executive Director, CDVSA

Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, AWRC, STAR Barrow AWIC Bethel TWC Cordova CFRC Dillingham SAFE
Fairbanks IAC Homer SPHH Juneau AWARE Kenai LeeShore Center Ketchikan WISH Kodiak KWRCC
Kotzebue MFCC Nome BSWG Seward SCS Sitka SAFV Unalaska USAFY Valdez AVV

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/27/07

FURTHER: Finance

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 5/2/07

Health, Education and Social Services Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 215(HES)

HB 215 TASK FORCE RE: COUNCIL ON DOM. VIOL.

"An Act relating to the establishment of a task force to review the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

SENATE BILL:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title
<hr/>	
HOUSE BILL:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title w/ SCR # _____

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Title	Zero	FN

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Title	Zero	FN
HSS	4/16				✓
LAW	4/9				✓
LEG	4/16				✓
H.FIN/COR	4/16				✓
DPS	4/17				✓

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS	PRINTED NAME	DATE	REMARKS	APPROVED
	Elb			✓
	Thomas			✓
	Coakley			✓
	Dyson			✓
CHAIR:	DAVIS			✓

Domestic violence is a serious, significant, preventable public health challenge. Alaska has the distinction of being one of the top five states in our nation for per capita domestic violence rates. Alaska women are being killed by their partners at the rate of 1.5 times the national average.

In 2005, Alaska shelters provided services to 8,793 clients.

HB 213 provides additional security for those who seek refuge, and those who work or volunteer, in a domestic or sexual assault shelter.

The message we send to those who dare break into a shelter to do harm is straightforward: Expect the maximum sentence for your offense.

HB 213 will allow the courts in Alaska to impose additional time beyond the presumptive sentence for felonies committed on the premises of a shelter or facility providing services to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault.

HB 213 will provide tool that can be used to send a message that crimes committed on the premises of a shelter are deserving of the maximum allowable punishment and that the safety that is expected in such an environment will be enforced and respected.

The language in this bill was crafted in a way to allow courts in each jurisdiction to determine the definition of facilities and services. Besides residential facilities the intent is to include operations such as STAR, a rape crisis center in Anchorage. Victims that deserve this protection will also include recognized safe homes that are located in rural Alaska

HB 213 CRIMES AT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS

WHAT IT DOES

- **Gives juries, prosecutors, & judges the ability to move beyond a presumptive sentence, up to the maximum for each offence, for felonies committed on the premises of a shelter for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault.**
- **Makes it clear that the Legislature believes these crimes are considered very serious and deserve special attention.**

HOW IT DOES IT TECHNICALLY

- **By adding crimes committed at shelters to already existing statutes regarding factors in aggravation.**
- **Factors in aggravation, if proven, must be considered by the sentencing court.**
- **Factors in aggravation are provided in AS 12.55.155(c)**

WHY WE NEED TO PASS THIS LEGISLATION

- **Because crimes committed at these shelters & safe houses in cities and rural areas are a regular occurrence in Alaska.**
- **Alaska rates of domestic violence & sexual assault are among the highest, if not *the* highest, in the nation.**
- **To continue the Legislatures mission to seek out every means available in our statutes to address this problem.**
- **So that we can provide the safest and most secure environment possible for victims who are vulnerable and in need of shelter**
- **To provide a safe work environment for the professionals and volunteers who provide services within these shelters**
- **To add credibility to our Resolution passed by this Legislative body and signed by our Governor declaring April 2007 Sexual Awareness Month in Alaska.**



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Andrea Doll

House District 4

Sponsor Statement

HB 213 Relating To Crimes at Domestic Violence Shelters

Alaska's rates of domestic violence and sexual assault are among the highest in the nation. While the state has made strides in providing safe shelters to protect victims of these crimes, more needs to be done to ensure that shelters provide the secure environment these vulnerable members of our society need for their safety and recovery. This legislation will give juries, prosecutors, and judges the ability to impose stiffer sentences --- up to the maximum punishment for each offense --- for felonies committed on the premises of a shelter for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. It provides direction to judges and prosecutors that crimes committed on the premises of domestic violence shelters are deserving of maximum allowable punishment.

Women and children are typically the victims of domestic violence and abuse and many must seek refuge in a local shelter. These shelters are literally lifesavers for those who are at high risk of further violence. Unfortunately, in spite of strict security provided by these facilities, there are perpetrators of domestic violence who attempt to inflict further distress and harm to residents of these shelters. There have been recent incidents in Alaska where individuals have broken into shelters, or attempted to do so, with this intent. Due to presumptive sentencing laws, in many cases the perpetrator has not received a sentence commensurate with the seriousness of victimizing the vulnerable persons staying or working in these shelters.

No legislation can stop the most determined individuals from attempting to break into a shelter. However, this bill will provide for the imposition of greater sentences, up to the maximum for the offense, for such offenders.

Alaska must address our epidemic of abuse towards women and children in every way possible. Passage of this legislation will send an important message that Alaska will not go lightly on those who jeopardize the peace and safety of those who have sought refuge in a shelter or safe house.

Contact: Terry Harvey 465 4712
03/22/07



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

Senate

Office of the Secretary

State Capitol, Room 213
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Phone: (907) 465-3701

Fax: (907) 465-2832

Email: senate_secretary@legis.state.ak.us

FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

DATE: May 8, 2007

TO: Health, Education and Social Services Committee
(Richard, Room 30)

FROM: Office of the Senate Secretary

SUBJ: Referral Change

The Chair of the Committee noted above has waived the referral(s) on the following bills(s):

RETRIEVE

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 213(JUD)

"An Act relating to an aggravating factor at sentencing for crimes committed at, or affecting persons or property at, certain shelters and facilities."

Please give the bill file(s) to the page delivering this message for forwarding to the next Committee of referral.

Thank you.

HB

252

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: CSHB253(STA)
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): HB252CS (STA)-DOA-DOP-02-04-08 Dept. Affected: Administration
 Title: "An Act requiring paid leave from employment for organ and bone marrow donations" RDU: Central Administrative Services
 Component: Personnel
 Sponsor: Representative Ledoux
 Requester: (H)HES Component Number: 58

(Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information					
		FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES							
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()							
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FUND SOURCE		(Thousands of Dollars)					
		FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Interagency Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill allows for 40 to 80 hours of time off to make bone marrow or organ donations without taking leave. The effect of this legislation could only be measured in terms of productivity loss. The bill's maximum of 80 hours equals a 4.1% loss of productivity per donating employee (based on 80hrs / 1950 total working hours per year = 4.1%). It is expected that the number of employees taking advantage of the program would be extremely small. However, we do not have any statistics that back up a hard number.

Prepared by: Nicki Neal, Director
 Division: Division of Personnel
 Approved by: Kevin Brooks, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Administration

Phone: 907-465-4429
 Date/Time: 2/4/08 12:00 AM
 Date: 2/4/2008

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 5/15/07

FURTHER: State Affairs
Finance

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 2/6/08

Health, Education and Social Services Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 252(STA)

HB 252 LEAVE FOR ORGAN/BONE MARROW DONATIONS

"An Act requiring paid leave from employment for organ and bone marrow donation."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

SENATE BILL:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title
<hr/>	
HOUSE BILL:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title w/ SCR # _____


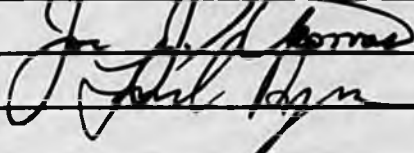
NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Code	Vote	FN#
ADM	2/4			✓	

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Code	Vote	FN#
CS HB 252	5/15/07	X		✓	5
CS HB 252	5/10/07	X		✓	1
CS HB 252	5/10/07	X		✓	2
CS HB 252	5/10/07	X		✓	
HB 252 CS		X		✓	

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES					
	Elton Thomas	✓			
	Thomas Dyson	✓			
CHAIR: <u>Bettye Davis</u>	DAVIS	X			

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SESSION ADDRESS
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-2487
Fax (907) 465-4956

INTERIM ADDRESS
112 Mill Bay Road
Kodiak, AK 996
(907) 486-887
Fax (907) 486-52

Representative Gabrielle LeDoux

MEMO

TO: SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
SENATOR BETTYE DAVIS, CHAIR

FROM: REPRESENTATIVE GABRIELLE LEDOUX *G. LeDoux*

SUBJECT: HEARING REQUEST FOR HB 252, AN ACT REQUIRING PAID LEAVE
FROM EMPLOYMENT FOR ORGAN AND BONE MARROW DONATION

DATE: 1/25/2008

I respectfully request that House Bill 252 be scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Health, Education & Social Services.

Attached you will find:

- HB 252, HB 252 (STA)
- Sponsor statement
- Fiscal notes
- Sectional analysis
- Letter of support
 - Bruce Zalneraitis, CEO of Life Alaska Donor Services
- News Articles
 - Juneau Empire, "Bone Marrow Donor, Recipient's Family Connect in Juneau"
 - Anchorage Daily News, "Once Again Friends Rally to Help Nome Lawmaker"

I appreciate your consideration. If you have any questions or concerns, my staff member assigned to this legislation is Thomas A. Brown at 465-6252.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SESSION ADDRESS
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-2487
Fax (907) 465-4956

INTERIM ADDRESS
112 Mill Bay Road
Kodiak, AK 99615
(907) 486-8872
Fax (907) 486-5264

Representative Gabrielle LeDoux

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR HB 252 **An Act requiring paid leave from employment** **for organ and bone marrow donation**

The Richard Foster, Stanley M. Robbins and Alex Cesar Donor Act would require the State of Alaska to grant a paid leave of absence to an employee for the purpose of making a personal organ or bone marrow donation. The State is not required to provide more than 80 hours of leave, however the leave may not be less than 40 hours unless the employee requests fewer hours. Verification may be required and the State may not retaliate or sanction an employee for requesting this leave.

For living donors, paid leave may be needed for the procedure to obtain bone marrow or kidneys, and recuperation time. In order to obtain a bone marrow donor sample, a quick and easy cheek swab is taken. The actual bone marrow donation and recuperation can take time away from work, especially if the donor must travel in order to donate. For kidney donors, screening can be intensive however it is surgery and recuperation where paid time is needed.

According to the Alaska Kidney Foundation, over 300 Alaskans are on kidney dialysis and that number has been steadily increasing by 15% annually. There are some patients on dialysis who are in need of a kidney transplant. There are nearly 160 Alaskans waiting for an organ transplant. Every year there are adults and children who need bone marrow transplants for ailments such as leukemia and other blood diseases. A bone marrow donation may be their only chance for survival.

Richard Foster is a longtime legislator from Nome who is currently awaiting a kidney transplant. Stanley M. Robbins was a former legislative staffer whose life was prolonged by a kidney transplant. Alex Cesar is a Filipino/Ilingit boy diagnosed with leukemia residing in Juneau who was able to receive a bone marrow transplant. The transplant took place in Seattle after the national bone marrow bank turned up a matching donor in New Mexico.

Bone marrow matches are relatively rare, one in 100,000. Persons waiting for kidney donors have long waits on lists unless a personal donation from a friend, family member or another person comes forward.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
 Bill Version: CSHB 252(HES)
 (H) Publish Date: 5/10/07

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Commerce
 Title: Leave for Organ/Bone Marrow Donations RDU _____
 Component: Alaska Railroad Corporation
 Sponsor: LeDoux et al
 Requester: House HES Component No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type—Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation would require railroad employees to be provided a paid leave of absence to make a personal organ or bone marrow donation.

ARRC is a public corporation supported by revenues generated through its freight, passenger and real estate services. Because ARRC does not receive state funding for operations or capital improvements and is operated as an independent state-owned enterprise, the cost to implement this legislation for railroad employees would fall to the Alaska Railroad Corporation and not the State.

Prepared by: Wendy Lindskoog, Assistant Vice President, Corporate Affairs Phone 907.265.2498
 Division: Alaska Railroad Corporation Date/Time 5/4/07 5:26 PM
 Approved by: Emil Notti, Commissioner Date 5/4/2007
 Agency: Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note: 3
 Bill Version: CSHB 252(HES)
 (H) Publish Date: 5/10/07

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
 Title: Leave for Organ/Bone Marrow Donations

Department: Labor and Workforce Development
 RDU: Labor Standards and Safety
 Component: Wage and Hour

Sponsor: Representative Ledoux
 Requester: House HES

Component Number: 345

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type—Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: None
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

There is no anticipated financial impact to the department as a result of this legislation.

Prepared by: Gray Mitchell, Director Phone: 465-4855
 Division: Labor Standards & Safety Date/Time: 5/4/07 9:39 AM
 Approved by: Click Bishop, Commissioner Date: 5/4/2007
 Agency: Department of Labor and Workforce Development

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 4
 Bill Version: CSHB 252(HES)
 (H) Publish Date: 5/10/07

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: University of Alaska
 Title Paid leave from employment for organ and bone RDU University of Alaska
marrow donation Component Sysbra
 Sponsor _____
 Requester Rep. LeDoux Component No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)
 This bill would have no fiscal impact on the University.

Prepared by: Michelle Rizk Phone 450-8187
 Division: University of Alaska Date/Time 5/4/07 11:00 AM
 Approved by: Pat Pitney Date 5/4/2007
 Agency: University of Alaska

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note: 5
 Bill Version: CSHB 252(STA)
 (H) Publish Date: 5/13/07

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Department: Labor and Workforce Development
 Title: Leave for Organ/Bone Marrow Donations RDU: Labor Standards and Safety
 Component: Wage and Hour

Sponsor: Representative Ledoux Component Number: 345
 Requester: House STA

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type—Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: None
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Due to changes made in the committee substitute, the bill no longer entails enforcement action by the Division of Labor Standards and Safety. With this change no financial impact is anticipated to this department.

Prepared by: Grey Mitchell, Director Phone: 465-4855
 Division: Labor Standards & Safety Date/Time: 5/10/07 4:01 PM
 Approved by: Click Bishop, Commissioner Date: 5/10/2007
 Agency: Department of Labor and Workforce Development

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101


State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

May 4, 2007

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary (HB 252 (Work Order No. 25-LS0817C))

TO: Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
Attn: Christine

FROM: Jean M. Mischel 
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1. Provides a short title.

Section 2. Adds a new section to title 23 (employment practices generally) requiring employers of 100 or more employees who work more than 30 or more scheduled hours each week to provide not less than 40 hours and not more than 80 hours of paid leave to those employees for donating an organ or bone marrow.

Section 3. Makes a conforming amendment related to sec. 6's technical change that removes a previously repealed paragraph.

Section 4. Makes a conforming amendment related to sec. 6's technical change that removes a previously repealed paragraph.

Section 5. Adds a new section to title 39 (state employment) requiring specified employers to provide employees who work more than 30 or more scheduled hours each week not less than 40 hours of paid administrative leave for donating an organ or bone marrow.

Section 6. Provides a cross-reference to the new section added in sec. 5 of the bill and makes a technical change that removes a previously repealed paragraph.

JMM:med
07-297.med

Christine Marasigan

From: Bruce Zalneraitis [BruceZ@lifealaska.org]
Sent: Friday, April 27, 2007 9:03 AM
To: Christine Marasigan
Subject: House bill on leave for organ donation

Hi Christine,

Thanks for allowing me to comment on this bill. I'll first make a few comments then I'll address the bill.

I strongly believe that such an initiative is important for the legislature to pass and be signed into law by the Governor. Kidney transplantation for U.S. citizens is entirely covered by the End Stage Renal Disease Act under Medicare. In my opinion, the employee leave benefit should actually be reimbursed through ESRD. If we put aside for a moment, the life saving act of donating a kidney to a patient on dialysis, the financial savings to ESRD when a kidney patient has a transplant vs. remaining on dialysis is huge. Kidney graft survival after the first year of transplant is now around 95% and after five years is over 70%. So you can see the savings in freedom from dialysis can be several hundred thousand dollars over that five year period. I know that there are bills being considered in Congress to address the loss of pay while recovering from donation surgery as well as payments for travel and lodging related to living kidney donation but I don't know where they stand at the moment. I'm sure you know that strong efforts are being made to reduce the burden of Medicare on the national budget and anything that is seen as increasing covered expenses will be tied up until the clear logic of savings can be seen.

You may also be aware that there is a movement across the U.S. to increase living *unrelated* kidney donation as a consequence of the fact that the graft survival as noted above, has improved so much in the last ten years to be nearly that of living related kidney donation (child to parent, sibling to sibling, etc.). In Seattle, Swedish Medical Center, Virginia Mason, and Univ. of Washington all have living unrelated kidney donation programs. The so-called "paired exchange program is popular and the "altruistic kidney donation program has had increased activity as well. In any event, a law that would lessen the financial burden on the donor could encourage more to consider this gift of life to help patients with end stage kidney disease.

On the bill I would suggest that time off for kidney donation should be increased to 80 hours but that time off from bone marrow donation should be reduced. You may know that bone marrow donation now doesn't have to be invasive as has traditionally been the case with needle aspirations from the ilium (hip bone). Donors can be administered a drug (Neupogen) over a several day period prior to donation and the cells can be removed through a process known as pheresis much like when someone donates platelets on a regular basis at a blood bank. Check with the Blood Bank of Alaska or Puget Sound Blood Center on this but this procedure is much less debilitating than before. Maybe 40 hours maximum for bone marrow donation would be reasonable.

Kidney donation surgery, while common, requires time to recover from the incision so 80 hours minimum makes more sense (I know you are trying to strike a balance between donor and employer productivity loss). Living organ donation for other organs (lobe of liver, lobe of lung) are much less common but involve more recovery time so using 80 hours would be striking a balance with these procedures.

Page 1, line 12: Should provide a definition for "does not qualify" and what timeframe. For example, if employee is granted time off and during screening process that takes place weeks prior to donation surgery, is found to be ineligible they shouldn't be given the time off from work. However, if the employee is found not to qualify immediately prior or during the surgical procedure then the time should be paid.

Page 2, line 3: ...an average of 30 or more hours each week – should include *scheduled* hours

When you create definitions, the term organ donation should include kidney, liver, and lung but not tissues such as corneas, bone, and skin which would not be donated from living donors. Blood donation should also be excluded as it is also considered a tissue.

Bone marrow definition should also include *bone marrow cells* and cells "harvested" from the blood to be used in bone marrow transplantation.

4/27/2007