

CDVSA Extended through June 30, 2022

Sponsored by Senator Kevin Meyer, SB 124 extends the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault for eight years. Co-sponsored by each of Alaska's twenty state Senators, the bill unanimously passed both houses earlier this year during the second session of the 28th Legislature. Governor Sean Parnell signed the sunset extension into law on June 18th- I applaud his compassion and his will to end this violence.

I want to acknowledge the public members of the Council-Richard Irwin, Rachel Gernat, Donna Erickson and Susan Cushing. I appreciate their willingness to volunteer their service to Alaska through our Council. Thanks to them voices of victims, offenders, service providers and the general public are represented in developing the state's domestic violence and sexual assault response policies.



I'd also like to thank the representatives from the Departments of Public Safety, Law, Education and Early Development, Corrections and Health and Social Services who sit on the Council. Their recognition of the importance of providing comprehensive and coordinated responses is essential for increasing victim safety, holding offenders accountable and preventing these crimes.

I am honored to work with co-workers whose dedication to public service is beyond reproach. They daily strive to ensure communities have the necessary resources, technical assistance and skills-building opportunities to effectively meet immediate safety needs and to build strategies to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault across our state.

There are over 200 women and men across Alaska who daily bear witness to the ravages these crimes inflict. Advocates are courageous and their work is essential to ending the suffering endured by those who are harmed and by those who cause harm through domestic violence and sexual assault. In addition to these heroes, 3,000+ Alaskans volunteered their time over the last year providing support to victims and survivors.

Communities from Barrow to Old Harbor, from Unalaska to Prince of Wales Island are gathering to prevent future violence—implementing Green Dot Alaska, Coaching Boys into Men, Girls on the Run and the Fourth R—youth leaders participating in LeadOn! for Peace and Equality, Stand Up Speak Up Alaska, When I Am An Elder, are making a difference.

My awe is held for each person who struggles to be free—you are so courageous. Our system is not perfect, but we extend our hands to you. People of good will are ready to stand with you. Whether you are hurt or you are the person who is hurting someone—help is available. We *are* moving from awareness to action. Violence *can* be made to give way to peace.

- Lauree Morton, Executive Director