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June 4, 2014

The Honorable Governor Sean Parnell
Governor of Alaska
Third Floor State Capitol
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell:

As you are likely aware, the U.S. Dept. of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office's (SAPRO) FY2012 survey of sexual assault and unwanted sexual contacts within their ranks indicated as many as 26,000 incidents occurred, disproportionately against women, that year. However, only 3,374 formal complaints were filed, resulting in 302 prosecuted cases and only 238 convictions. SAPRO's FY2013 survey found formal sexual assault complaints increased over 50%, from 3,374 in FY2012 to 5,061 in FY2013.

SAPRO findings indicate most victims do not formally report due to a pervasive, hostile climate that results in victims' fear of workplace retaliation. Other findings indicate widespread prosecution failures, up and down the chain of command, where conflict of interest is built in to the military justice system. SAPRO indicates this egregious problem has existed for decades.

That nationwide issue hit Alaskans close to home this spring when media reports broadly informed Alaskans that sexual assault and rape accusations within the Alaska National Guard were reported to you in 2010. Alaska NOW members and many other Alaskans want more transparency regarding this matter, conflicts of interest identified, the process improved, and justice.

Therefore, Alaska NOW is requesting, per the Alaska Public Records Act, copies of any document, paper, letter, exhibit, electronic record, draft or memorialization of conversation between you and then Attorney General Daniel Sullivan from November 18, 2010, or the first actual date of any report to you regarding sexual assault accusations within the Alaska National Guard, through Daniel Sullivan's last day as Attorney General, December 5, 2010.

Please contact me at the above address with an estimate of cost before generating the copies. Thank you very much for your and your staff's time and effort expended on this request.

Sincerely,

Barbara McDaniel, President

By fax and certified mail

Your silence will not protect you. – Audre Lorde