

**From:** Michelle Krier [mailto:MKrier@kawerak.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 18, 2008 9:19 AM  
**To:** Sen. Donny Olson  
**Cc:** Michelle Krier  
**Subject:** Trooper needs in Western Alaska

Dear Senator Olson,

My name is Michelle Krier and I was born & raised in Nome, Alaska and had the privilege of attending High School in Shishmaref, Alaska my mother's hometown. I am currently the Director of Kawerak's Child Advocacy Center in Nome and I heard of your Crime Summit that was held in Juneau. I am writing to inform you that we are in dire need of more funding for the Alaska State Troopers in our Region. They are understaffed and their caseloads are heavy. Right now they have to focus on Sexual Assaults, Child Sexual Abuse, and other emergent issues and must find time to also address vandalism & burglary in our Villages.

I have recently heard from the Village of Elim that they feel as though their needs are not being met by the Troopers, and I believe it is because they need more staff. Also, families that come through my center because of Child Sexual Abuse may feel that their cases aren't important or that the Troopers have forgot about them, but I have to tell them that they are working diligently on these cases, but everything takes time because of their manpower.

I am writing this in hopes that you will increase funding for the Alaska State Troopers, especially in our Region. I believe that if they have more staff, they will better meet the needs of our communities. Travel to and from villages takes up hours in their workday, and is required the need is great. Also, right now we have vacant VPSO positions in the following communities: Brevig, Diomed, Elim, Gambell, Golovin, Koyuk, Teller, Unalakleet, Wales. That means that there is no law enforcement available for emergencies in these communities. I believe it is because of the low pay that they receive for trying to protect close-knit communities where they have to enforce law with their friends and relatives.

I ask that you increase funding for our law enforcement, in the end will save our State money by keeping crime down. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to know more about the needs of our Region.

Sincerely,

Michelle Krier  
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***KAWERAK CAC MISSION***

To provide a child-friendly, culturally respectful place where caring professionals work together to help children, families and communities affected by abuse.