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Page 1: 2018 Candidate Survey

Q1 What is your name? Which office are you running for and which district do you hope to represent?

Congressman Don Young, and I am running to continue to serve as a member of the House of Representatives for Alaska's at-large Congressional seat.

Q2 What is your vision for Alaska when it comes to reducing sexual assault and domestic violence? What steps are you prepared to take to get there?

Sexual assault and domestic violence are a stain on our society. The fact that anyone has faced this reality is a travesty. I believe that the best way to fight this scourge is to continue to fund, authorize and support programs that provide victims with the support and resources they need, as well as, providing law enforcement with the tools necessary to find, prosecute, and punish the perpetrators of these heinous acts.

Q3 Are you familiar with local programs that provide domestic violence and sexual assault services to victims across Alaska? Have you recently visited your local domestic violence/sexual assault shelter or victim services program? What is your plan to support these programs?

Locally I have visited and supported programs and organizations such as Covenant House, AWAIC, Child Advocacy Centers, and the Salvation Army McKinnell House. It is vital that all victims know that these organizations are available to them to help. I have and continue to advocate for these critical programs, including fighting to secure resources and funding for these programs.

Q4 What responsibilities do you believe the Legislature and our elected officials hold in advancing efforts to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault? Would you be willing to maintain or increase the current level of funding for prevention and victims services?

Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault must know that when they come for help, it will be there. Legislatures and elected officials have an essential role in this process. For the last 45 years as the Congressman for all Alaska, I have continued to ensure that victims of crimes are taken care of and have the resources needed available to them. This includes securing funding for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and fighting for the passage of relevant legislation like the POWER Act, which was recently signed into law. As well as, cosponsoring the Violence Against Women Veterans Act. Additionally, I have worked with my fellow members of Congress to engage with Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie, asking him to review Military Sexual Trauma-related Post Traumatic Stress claims after a recent report found serious errors in the decision making process that led to almost half of all these claims being denied and asking VA Committee Chairman Phil Roe, to hold a hearing on this important matter.

Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA)

Q5 Alaska's 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey reports that 1 in 10 Alaskan students had experienced sexual violence (being forced by anyone to do sexual acts) during the past year. Do you feel that sexual assault, sexual abuse, and dating violence prevention education should take place in our schools and in what way would you suggest enhancing efforts to educate Alaska's youth on these important subjects? Who do you think shares this responsibility?

As a former school teacher, I was disheartened and angered when I learned of the result from this survey. I have long believed that we should increase our investment, implementation, and support for programs which seek to prevent our youth from engaging in criminal activity and heading down a dark path. It is high time we look at expanding these programs to include efforts to educate our youth to reduce sexual assault, sexual abuse, and dating violence. All share this responsibility; community leaders, educators, and clergy, as well as local, state, and federal elected officials. I am committed to working with these partners to stem the tide of these evil acts.
