



Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence
ACTION ALLIANCE
Virginia's leading voice on sexual and
intimate partner violence
www.vsdvalliance.org

PROMOTING SAFETY & JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS

SB 1055, Marsden :: HB 2025, Tran :: HB 2392 :: HB 2270, Poindexter (OPPOSE)

- Driver's permit access for all immigrant Virginians;
- In-state tuition access for immigrant Virginia students regardless of immigration status; and
- Preventing the expansion of federal immigration authorities over local and state agency information.

OUR POSITION

The Action Alliance supports policies ensuring that all persons, regardless of immigration status, have equal access to safety and justice. This includes access to sexual and domestic violence advocacy services, healthcare, safe and legal transportation options, and the opportunity to pursue work and education without fear of being targeted or facing family separation/deportation. When we all have access to resources that serve to connect and strengthen our communities, we are all less likely to experience violence and far more likely to report crimes and seek advocacy services if violence occurs.

TALKING POINTS

- Many immigrants experience an increased risk of violence in the home and exploitation in the workplace, exacerbated by cultural and language barriers. Abusive partners or other abusers often exploit lack of immigration status, or dependent immigration status, as a way to maintain power and control, and to keep survivors of abuse silent. Immigrant survivors are frequently threatened with deportation by their abusers, increasing their reluctance to seek help from the authorities or advocacy services.
- A recent survey, designed and distributed by seven national organizations working to end domestic violence and sexual assault, and answered by over 700 victim advocates and attorneys across the country, found: 78% of advocates reported that immigrant survivors expressed concerns about contacting the police; 75% of service providers reported that immigrant survivors have concerns about going to court for a matter related to the abuser/offender; and 43% of advocates worked with immigrant survivors who dropped civil or criminal cases because of fear
- When Virginia adopts policies that make it easier for immigrant survivors to access healthcare, transportation, and criminal/civil remedies to violence, we also make it more likely that all Virginians will report crimes and access safety and justice throughout the Commonwealth.