

ACTION ALLIANCE **LEGISLATIVE & BUDGET PRIORITIES** **2016**

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CONSTITUENT:

SUPPORT

INCREASED FUNDING FOR SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM SERVICES.

Budget Item 398 #6h (Chief Patron: Del. Peace)

Budget Item 398 #7s (Chief Patron: Sen. Howell)

These budget amendments will provide an additional \$2 million/year in funding to provide services to victims of sexual violence, including ensuring such services are available and accessible to victims of sexual assault committed against college students-on and off campus. As the Commonwealth enacts new policy to mandate testing of physical evidence recovery kits and to encourage reporting of sexual assault on college campuses, this additional funding is even more critical to safeguarding the availability of these services across the Commonwealth.



Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence
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SUPPORT

COMPREHENSIVE, TRAUMA-INFORMED, STATEWIDE POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS FOR THE COLLECTION, STORAGE AND ANALYSIS OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE RECOVERY KITS (P.E.R.K.S.).

SB 291 (Sen. Black); HB 1158 (Del. Watts); & HB 1160 (Del. Bell)

Establishes a comprehensive procedure for the collection and analysis of physical evidence recovery kits for victims of sexual assault, including those who elect at the time of the exam not to report a sexual assault to a law enforcement agency.

Additional PERK legislation includes: SB 158, SB 159, HB 489, & HB 655. The Action Alliance supports incorporating into the comprehensive legislation proposed by Senator Black, Delegate Watts, and Delegate Bell.

SUPPORT

STRENGTHENING VIRGINIA'S LAWS ON THE AGE OF CONSENT TO MARRY TO PROTECT TEENS AND CHILDREN AT RISK.

SB 415 (Sen. Vogel & Sen. Howell); HB 703 (Del. McClellan)

The Action Alliance supports raising the minimum age of marriage to 18 to help ensure full and free consent to marriage for all persons; and to ensure that all persons who can lawfully marry have the legal right to access services and remedies necessary to protect themselves from a forced marriage and/or violent spouse.



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SUPPORT

POLICIES THAT INCREASE VICTIM SAFETY BY PROVIDING TOOLS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT, PROSECUTION, AND COURTS THAT REDUCE OFFENDERS' ACCESS TO FIREARMS IN CASES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE.

SB 49 (Sen. Howell)
SB 96 (Sen. Marsden)
SB 546 (Sen. Favola)
HB 658 (Del. Filler-Corn)
HB 1106 (Del. Murphy)

Firearms profoundly affect the dynamics of domestic violence, as they are used to intimidate, frighten, maim, and kill, and their presence significantly increases the lethality of violent interaction between intimate partners. According to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, 64% of intimate partner homicides in 2014 were committed with a firearm.

OPPOSE

POLICIES THAT PROPOSE ARMING VICTIMS, RATHER THAN DISARMING OFFENDERS, AS THE SOLUTION TO SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

SB 626 (Sen. Vogel)
SB 656 (Sen. Vogel)
HB761 (Del. Freitas)
HB766 (Del. Gilbert)
HB768 (Del. Gilbert)

Contrary to common misconceptions, access to firearms does not increase victim safety. A woman is far more likely to be the victim of a handgun homicide than to use a handgun in a justifiable homicide. A study found that for every time a woman used a handgun to kill an intimate partner in self-defense, 83 women were murdered by an intimate partner with a handgun.

Source: Violence Policy Center. (2001). A Deadly Myth: Women, Handguns, and Self-Defense. Washington, DC.



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SUPPORT

POLICIES THAT ENSURE THAT ALL VICTIMS, REGARDLESS OF RACE, ABILITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, OR IMMIGRATION STATUS HAVE ACCESS TO FAIR, EQUAL AND RESPECTFUL TREATMENT.

SB 10 & SB 12 (Sen. Ebbin)

SB 67 (Sen. Wexton)

SB 82 (Sen. Favola)

HB 35 (Del. Sullivan)

HB 179 (Del. Kory)

HB 5 & HB 300 (Del. Simon)

HB 429 (Del. Villanueva)

HB 913 (Del. Toscano)

HB 1005 (Del. Levine)

OPPOSE

DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES THAT ENDORSE DISCRIMINATION AND ROLL-BACK, ERODE AND BLOCK ACCESS TO ECONOMIC SECURITY, SAFETY AND EQUALITY FOR PERSONS WHO IDENTIFY AS LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND/OR QUEER.

SB 40 & SB 41 (Sen. Carrico)

HB 77 & HB 385 (Del. Marshall)

HB 397 & HB 431 (Del. LaRock)

HB 663 & HB 781 (Del. Cole)

HB 773 (Del. Gilbert)

**VIRGINIA'S LEADING VOICE
ON SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS.**



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