



Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence
ACTION ALLIANCE

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY 2019 VIRTUAL LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AGENDA

SAMPLE EMAIL SCRIPTS

INCREASE VICTIM SAFETY BY REDUCING OFFENDER ACCESS TO FIREARMS

Subject: Promote Victim Safety in VA: Reduce Offender Access to Firearms

Dear Delegate/Senator _____:

I'm _____ (name), _____ (position/title) at _____ (sexual and/or domestic violence agency), a community based program serving _____ (town/city/county/) and working every day to end sexual and domestic violence. I'm emailing you today to urge you to **support bills like SB1078, SB1476, and HB1763**, bills that would increase victim safety by reducing offender access to firearms in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Unfortunately, Intimate partner homicide occurs at extraordinary rates in Virginia. And overwhelmingly, firearms are the means by which abusers escalate and enact lethal force on victims and their families. **I am asking that you promote victim safety and prevent intimate partner homicide in the Commonwealth by supporting these measures this session.** Please see the Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance's [priority one-pager](#) for more information on this crucial issue!

Thank you for your time and your commitment to safety and justice in Virginia! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or our partners at the Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance.

Thank you!

_____ (Name, title, agency, contact info)

PROMOTING SAFETY & JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS

Subject: Support Immigrant Victims of Violence: Support SB 1055, HB 2392

Dear Delegate/Senator _____:

I'm _____ (name), _____ (position/title) at _____ (sexual and/or domestic violence agency), a community based program serving _____ (town/city/county/) and working every day to end sexual and domestic violence. I'm emailing you today asking that you support immigrant survivors of violence by supporting policy measures, like HB 2392 and SB 1055, that seek to eliminate everyday barriers that immigrants face in accessing transportation, healthcare, and victim services, including sexual and domestic violence services in the Commonwealth.

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.

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 across the Commonwealth.

For more information, please see the Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance's [priority one-pager](#) on these issues. Thank you for your time and thank you for your commitment to supporting a Commonwealth free of violence! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or our partners at the Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance.

Thank you!

_____ (Name, title, agency, contact info)

PROMOTE REPRODUCTIVE & SEXUAL HEALTH FOR SURVIVORS

Subject: Healthcare Access for Victims of Violence in VA: Support HB 2207/HB 2491/HJ 614

Dear Delegate/Senator _____:

I'm _____ (name), _____ (position/title) at _____ (sexual and/or domestic violence agency), a community based program serving _____ (town/city/county/) and working every day to end sexual and domestic violence. I'm emailing you today to urge you to **support HJ 614, HB 2207, and HB 2491**, bills that promote access to contraception, reproductive healthcare, and forensic nurse examinations for victims of sexual and domestic violence in Virginia.

All too often, victims of sexual and domestic violence have the burden of addressing the possibility of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), pregnancy and/or infertility, and other sexual and reproductive health issues. Access to sexual and reproductive health care is critical to recovering from the trauma of sexual and domestic violence—and that access must include options for all people regardless of income, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, ability, or age. A victim of sexual violence who is pregnant must be able to make decisions about whether to end a pregnancy, choose adoption, or raise a child. As part of that process, they should have access to non-judgmental, safe, legal, affordable, and medically accurate information and care, without pressure or added burdens. **I am in support of measures, like HJ 614, HB 2207, and HB 2491, that seek to remove barriers and increase access to vital services for victims of violence and I ask that you stand with me this session.**

Thank you for your time and your commitment to safety and justice in Virginia! For more information, please see the Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance's [priority one-pager](#) on this issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or our partners at the Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance.

Thank you!

_____ (Name, title, agency, contact info)

SAMPLE TWITTER POSTS

@_____ (Senator/Delegate twitter handle) promote victim safety in VA now! Support bills like SB1078, SB1476, and HB1763 #AmplifySurvivorVoices #LAD19 #ActionAlliance

@_____ (Senator/Delegate twitter handle) help us prevent intimate partner homicide in VA! Support bills like SB1078, SB1476, and HB1763 #AmplifySurvivorVoices #LAD19 #ActionAlliance

@_____ (Senator/Delegate twitter handle) support immigrant survivors of violence in VA by eliminating barriers to transportation, healthcare, and victim services! Vote YES on SB1055 and HB2392 #AmplifySurvivorVoices #LAD19 #ActionAlliance

@_____ (Senator/Delegate twitter handle) join me in supporting policies like HJ 614, HB 2207, and HB 2491, that seek to remove barriers and increase access to vital healthcare services for victims of sexual and domestic violence! #AmplifySurvivorVoices #LAD19 #ActionAlliance

SAMPLE FACEBOOK POSTS

I stand with advocates and survivors of sexual and domestic violence in promoting safe, inclusive, and thriving communities across the Commonwealth!

- ❖ Join me in supporting policies like SB 1055 that ensure all persons, regardless of immigration status, have equal access to advocacy services and opportunities that enable them to lead healthy lives.
- ❖ Support legislation like HB 2205 to promote evidence-informed, age-appropriate, comprehensive approaches to healthy relationships, healthy sexuality, and consent education in Virginia.
- ❖ And ask legislators to increase our capacity and funding for sexual and domestic violence agencies to engage in sustained, robust, and evidence-informed efforts to respond to and prevent violence.

#AmplifySurvivorVoices #LAD19 #ActionAlliance

Survivors of sexual and domestic violence benefit from expanded access to affordable, trauma-informed, and preventative healthcare – including reproductive and sexual healthcare services that allow people to make the best decisions for themselves and their families. Advocates support repealing burdensome TRAP restrictions and establishing paid family and medical leave programs for all survivors of violence across the Commonwealth! #AmplifySurvivorVoices #LAD19 #ActionAlliance

Advocates and survivors of sexual and domestic violence agree: Legislators can increase victim safety by reducing offender access to lethal firearms! To curb the high rates of intimate partner homicide in VA, we need to enact measures that remove firearms from dangerous and potentially lethal situations in addition to policies that give law enforcement, prosecutors, and courts additional tools to protect victims, their families, and the larger community from harm. #AmplifySurvivorVoices #LAD19 #ActionAlliance