May 11, 2021

The Honorable **{Legislator’s full name}**

**{Building / Street}**

Albany, NY **{ZIP}**

**Re: NYSCADV Virtual Legislative Day of Action**

Dear ***{Assembly member/Senator + last name},***

On behalf of **{your organization}**, thank you for your efforts and leadership in supporting domestic violence (DV) survivors and service providers in New York State.

Your support is crucial in helping domestic violence service providers obtain the supports that they need in order to continue to provide quality life-saving services. As you know, according to the annual DV Counts nationwide survey conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence, on just one day in New York in 2020, more than 8,300 victims of DV received services -- 2,500 more victims than the year prior. But on that same day in 2020, nearly 2,000 DV survivors did not get the services they requested. That’s more than double the number of unmet requests received on a similar day in 2019.

With your leadership, we can pass significant reforms needed to ensure trauma-informed, survivor-centered services are available and accessible to New Yorkers experiencing DV.Together, we can implementstructural change and provide additional funding needed to enhance and expand the options available for DV victims and their families.

On NYSCADV’s Legislative Day of Action on Tuesday, May 11th, domestic violence advocates, survivors, allies and community members from across the state joined together to call on New York State to support the following legislation to prevent DV from occurring in the first place and to support DV victims when it does happen:

1. **A.2520 Weinstein/S.1789 Sanders,** to extend federal confidentiality protections to New York’s DV advocates, further clarifying that conversations between advocates and survivors are privileged.
2. **A.3891 Ramos/S.3086 Salazar**, to increase the age of consent for the purposes of marriage to the age of 18.
3. **A.6616 Nolan/S2584A Brouk**, to require age-appropriate, comprehensive healthy relationships and sexual education instruction for K-12 students in all public and charter schools.
4. **A.6207 Rosenthal/S.4815 Salazar,** to permit DV survivors to self-attest to their eligibility for breaking bundled or family-plan cell phone and TV contracts.
5. **A.211 Rosenthal/S.401 Biaggi,** to establish a women’s health education program in correctional facilities and enhance services for pregnant inmates.

If you would like more information on how DV service providers and survivors are impacted, I can be reached at **{phone number}**. You can also contact Joan Gerhardt, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy at NYSCADV, at 518-482-5465.

Thank you for your time and your leadership on behalf of DV survivors in New York State.

Sincerely,

**{Your name and title}**