MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Make Informational Materials on Economic Abuse Available to Survivors of Domestic Violence

A.5347 Rosenthal L./ S.5915 Gonzalez

The New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV) urges Governor Hochul to sign this legislation which would require the state Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) to create and distribute informational materials on economic abuse to survivors of domestic violence.

According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, financial abuse occurs in 99% of domestic violence cases. It is one of the primary reasons survivors cite for staying in or returning to an abusive partner. Financial abuse involves maintaining control over financial resources, withholding access to money, sabotaging credit, or attempting to prevent a victim from working in an effort to create financial dependence as a means of control. Little by little, abusers chip away at a victim's financial independence until they gradually become fully dependent.

This bill would require OPDV to create materials that describe:

- How economic abuse is a form of domestic violence;
- The impact of economic abuse;
- How to identify economic abuse;
- How to prevent economic abuse; and
- The resources available to victims of economic abuse.

Once available, the materials would be made available to domestic violence shelters, local social services districts, local police departments and child care facilities.

NYSCADV is pleased the Legislature passed this bill to raise awareness about economic abuse and provide domestic violence survivors with critical information about resources available to them should they become a victim of economic abuse. Although not required by the legislation, NYSCADV urges OPDV to work in collaboration with domestic violence advocates in the development and distribution of these materials if the bill is signed into law.

ABOUT NYSCADV:
Established in 1978, NYSCADV is designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as the information clearinghouse, primary point of contact, and resource center on domestic violence for the State of New York. NYSCADV is responsible for supporting the development of policies, protocol, and procedures to enhance domestic violence intervention and prevention and also provides education and technical assistance to the network of primary-purpose domestic violence service providers statewide.

For more information, contact: Joan Gerhardt, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, 518.482.5465

August 11, 2023