

BUDGET - HOUSE BILL 6659 VOCA GAP FUNDING

Utilize pandemic relief funds to address the continued 50% reduction in federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding that impacts a variety of nonprofit victim services organizations, including CCADV and our 18 member organizations. To keep victim services flat-funded based on current federal funding, the amounts of **\$13.175 million in FY24** and **\$20 million in FY25** are needed to cover the federal reduction.

This amount includes **\$3,772,000 annually, or \$7,544,000 over the biennium**, for domestic violence services across the state. VOCA currently funds approximately **127 direct service positions across CCADV and our 18 member organizations**, including court advocates, law enforcement advocates, adult advocates, and the entire statewide domestic violence hotline.

STATUS: Awaiting action in the House; HB 6669, voted favorably out of the Appropriations Committee, includes all requested funding.

SENATE BILL 5 AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PROTECTIONS AGAINST AND RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Expands the CT Judicial Branch domestic violence offender GPS monitoring program statewide by 10.1.25.
- Prohibit abusers convicted of attempted murder, conspiracy to commit murder, or certain other Class A or B felonies designated as family violence against their spouse from receiving alimony from their victims.
- Allocates VOCA gap funding of \$13.175 million in FY24 and \$20 million in FY25.
- Provides continued funding for domestic violence child & family advocates through DSS.
- Requires the CT Bar Foundation to submit a report on the potential statewide expansion of the grant program to provide legal assistance to indigent restraining order applicants.

STATUS: Awaiting action in the Senate (Calendar #324); voted unanimously out of the Judiciary Committee.

SENATE BILL 1118 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE AND ENHANCEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The original intent of this bill is to establish a new advisory council to assess and provide guidance regarding the state's criminal justice response to domestic violence with an eye towards innovative, cost-effective enhancements that meet the needs of survivors. This work would include creating uniform policies and procedures as appropriate and determining the feasibility of statewide implementation or expansion of criminal justice system best practices. Substitute language voted out of committee first seeks to study the need for such an advisory council.

STATUS: Awaiting action in the Senate (Calendar #371); voted unanimously out of the Judiciary Committee.

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For questions or additional information, please contact:

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SENATE BILL 943

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RETURN OF SECURITY DEPOSITS UPON THE TERMINATION OF TENANCY

Shortens the length of time landlords have to return security deposits from 30 calendar days to 15 business days (approximately 20 calendar days). The shortened timeframe is not specific to survivors but will aid in their ability to transition between living arrangements as needed.

STATUS: Awaiting action in the Senate (Calendar #109); voted 10 - 5 out of the Housing Committee.

SENATE BILL 1086

AN ACT CONCERNING COERCED DEBT

Provides relief for victims from collection of coerced debts and reporting of such debts on their credit reports. Documentation showing coerced debt may include police reports, Federal Trade Commission report, court orders, or sworn written certification from a qualified third-party professional and must be submitted under oath. Consumer collection agencies remain able to pursue collection of the debt from the individual who is found to be the perpetrator of the coerced debt.

STATUS: Awaiting action in the Senate (Calendar #141); voted 11 - 1 out of the Banking Committee.

HOUSE BILL 6599

AN ACT CONCERNING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND OTHER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Requires the state's Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) to develop materials related to domestic violence to provide to DPH for distribution to obstetricians and birthing hospitals with the intention that it be provided to pregnant and postpartum patients. This is a critical time to connect potential victims to services as the CT MMRC recently found that intimate partner violence was present in 25% of the total pregnancy-related deaths reviewed. The bill also allows healthcare providers that screen for domestic violence to report to DPH so that it may publish a list on its website.

STATUS: Awaiting action in the House (Calendar #59); voted unanimously out of the Public Health Committee.

OUR MEMBERS



BRIDGEPORT



DANBURY



DAYVILLE/WILLIMANTIC



ENFIELD



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HARTFORD



LAKEVILLE



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NEW BRITAIN



NEW HAVEN/SHELTON



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