



## 2022 Legislative Priorities **WE SUPPORT**

### **Budget Item [344 #2s](#) (Sen. Favola) and Budget Item [344 #2h](#) (Del. Delaney)**

- ✓ \$650k increase in annual appropriations to the [Virginia sexual and domestic violence prevention fund](#) + commitment from the General Assembly and administration to get these funds out to local programs immediately.

#### **TALKING POINTS:**

Since initial approval during the 2020 General Assembly Session, prevention funds have been held up by state agencies and unreleased to the sexual and domestic violence field. We have lost 2 years of crucial programming in our communities statewide. It's time to fund prevention, fully and effectively.

### **Budget Item [486 #19s](#) (Sen. Favola) and Budget Item [486 #5h](#) (Del. Coyner)**

- ✓ \$9M in ARPA appropriations to maintain stop-gap funding for Virginia's sexual and domestic violence crisis centers.

#### **TALKING POINTS:**

Significant reductions in the federal VOCA reserve have threatened the life-saving work of sexual and domestic violence agencies. While we anticipate the FFY23 VOCA fund balance to increase – with increased deposits from the federal VOCA Fix Act – Virginia's crisis centers need stability via state stopgap funding right now.

### **[SB 494](#) (Sen. McClellan)**

- ✓ Strengthen protections for those impacted by workplace and sexual harassment.

#### **TALKING POINTS:**

Workplace and sexual harassment continue to be a pervasive issue in Virginia. This has been especially true throughout the pandemic - which has exacerbated economic instability and created unsafe working conditions for survivors in low wage jobs. The Virginia Human Rights Act (VHRA) requires procedural clarity, particularly with regards to a consistent and expanded statute of limitations and employer size threshold. For more [see our one-pager](#).

## **HB 671 (Del. Hope)**

- ✓ Expand the Hope Card Program for Petitioners of Final Protective Orders Statewide.

### **TALKING POINTS:**

The Hope Card Program, operated by the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, allows anyone who has a final protective order to obtain a card summarizing the order's critical information. The design of the Card combines law enforcement's immediate need for information in response to a domestic violence or stalking incident with a victim's need for safety, convenience, and wraparound services.

## **SJ 5 (Sen. Ebbin) and HJ 57 (Del. Sickles)**

- ✓ Constitutional Amendment to repeal Virginia's Discriminatory Ban on LGBTQ Marriage.

### **TALKING POINTS:**

We support healthy relationships between consenting adults and believe that ALL Virginians have the right to safe, respectful, and violence free relationships and homes. Advancing equality and respect for LGBTQ Virginians is integral to creating a Virginia free from sexual and domestic violence.

# WE OPPOSE

## **HB 69 (Del. Davis)**

- ☒ Creates a “shared parenting” presumption in child custody and separation determinations.

### **TALKING POINTS:**

Litigation abuse, particularly in the context of child custody and separation, is costly, lengthy, traumatic, and all too common for parenting survivors who attempt to leave abusive spouses. We strongly oppose any proposal that would create a presumption for “shared parenting” time in separation and custody determinations. Not only does this proposal dilute and trump factors intended to serve the best interests of the child, but it contradicts all best available research evidence which tells us that it’s not about the frequency of time spent with both parents, but about the quality of time spent with non-abusive parents.

## **SB 174 (Sen. Peake)**

- ☒ Reciprocal no-contact protective orders.

### **TALKING POINTS:**

Reciprocal no contact orders are not only in conflict with the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) but they are also contrary to due process and the constitutional rights of a petitioner/victim. As such, these orders are not subject to full faith and credit laws (and therefore unable to be enforced across state lines). The establishment of reciprocal no-contact protective orders in Virginia would also jeopardize the flow of federal VAWA dollars to sexual and domestic violence agencies. We strongly oppose these and any similar proposals.

## **HB 1051 (Del. Phillip Scott) and similar bills**

- ☒ Increasing abuser access to lethal firearms.

### **TALKING POINTS:**

We’ve made significant progress in recent years to not only keep firearms out of the hands of abusers, but to create procedural mechanisms that support robust and effective gun violence prevention efforts in our communities. We oppose all proposals to undo this progress and allow greater access to lethal firearms for abusers and those who pose a threat to themselves or their communities.

## **HB 212 (Del. Greenhaulgh) and similar bills**

- ☒ Limiting survivor access to healthcare, including abortion.

### **TALKING POINTS:**

A person’s sexual and reproductive health are directly impacted by experiences of sexual and intimate partner violence. Acts violence serve to remove power and agency making voice and choice imperative in the aftermath of trauma. We support full access to non-judgmental, safe, legal, affordable, and medically accurate sexual and reproductive health care for all survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence.