



## **In-Session Newsletter**

### **February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Today marks **Day 25** of our Legislative Session and is the last week before Crossover Day. On March 6<sup>th</sup>, all bills that have not passed out of the full legislative chamber (either House or Senate) will have to wait until next year and can start over from where they were on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Addendum to “In Session February 21st”**

##### **House Resolution 198**

Rep. Mandi Ballinger sponsored HR198 recognizing February 14, 2023, as Stand With Survivors Day at the Capitol. This Resolution was co-sponsored by Rep. Houston Gaines (District 120), Rep. Katie Dempsey (District 13), Rep. Matt Hatchett (District 155) and Rep. Penny Houston (District 170). **If any of these legislators are in your district, please drop them a thank you call/letter/email.** You can find your legislator at [www.openstates.org](http://www.openstates.org)

#### **GCADV LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

##### **Address Confidentiality & Safe Time**

Since we are not likely to get a floor vote before next Monday, we are likely going to introduce our Address Confidentiality and Safe Time bills after Crossover Day. The plan is to have them introduced and ideally assigned to committee so that next Session we can pick up the process from that point and are not starting from the beginning. Some of you who have spoken to your legislators about these two priority areas have indicated that they were very interested and both interest areas are gaining bi-partisan support.

##### **Funding for DV shelters and Sexual assault centers**

Last week the Senate added another \$2M in the FY23 remainder budget. Since the Senate and the House are recommending different amounts, both chambers will go through conference committee to negotiate a final amount.

#### **BILLS WE ARE WATCHING**

##### **SB83** –Anti- Stalking in the Home

This bill is being sponsored by Sen. Kim Jackson and would revise the definition of stalking to include stalking that occurs in the home. **This bill has made it onto the Rules calendar for Today! THANK YOU ADVOCATES!** If SB8 passes out of Rules today it goes on to get a Senate vote.



### [HB382](#)

This **victim-centered bill, Restorative Justice bill** is sponsored by Rep. Teri Anulewicz (District 42). This is a bill we support though it does not directly impact survivors in the short-term, it has long-term implications for survivors who choose not to engage the criminal legal system, but still seek healing and justice for themselves through restorative and transformative justice processes. **Only 34% of domestic violence incidents between 2018-2021 involved the arrest of the perpetrator and when arrest is not an option nor is it desirable, victims need alternatives.** Right now, domestic violence victims are not included in the group of victims of crime who are included in these processes primarily spearheaded by the GA Justice Project, but when survivors are included, we know that making these processes a space where parties can speak freely requires an evidentiary privilege, just like the one that already exists in mediation settings. HB 382 would create this privilege. HB382 has been assigned to the House Judiciary Committee and has a hearing today at 1:30pm.

### [HB123](#) and [SB51](#)

**GA STOMP stands for Stop Tax On Menstrual Products and today is Tax Free Tuesday.** HB123 and SB51 have both been introduced in the GA Assembly to eliminate the 4% tax on menstrual products. GA STOMP believes this is unconstitutional because it is a tax on products that menstruating persons have no choice but to purchase, and are a medical necessity required for good health and full participation in health and life. Removing the tax on menstrual products is reproductive justice. HB123 has been assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee and SB51 has been assigned to the Finance Committee. **Please [CLICK HERE](#) to Take Action!**

### **Reproductive Freedom Act**

[SB15](#) sponsored by Sen. Sally Harrell (District 40) and [HB75](#) sponsored by Rep. Shea Roberts (District 52) are still stuck in committee. **If you would like to support full abortion access for all Georgians, you can sign the Reproductive Freedom Petition. [Sign Here.](#)**