



STAND WITH SURVIVORS

ANNUAL ADVOCACY DAYS

Address Confidentiality



SB324- A Victim-Centered Address Confidentiality

The Ask: Create a victim-centered Address Confidentiality Program for victims of trafficking, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

The Need: The most dangerous time for a survivor is when they decide to leave an abusive relationship. Motivated abusers and stalkers can easily access public government records to locate victims.

The Impact: By keeping a survivor's address private, ACP's have been shown to prevent future harm, reduce fear and isolation, and have ultimately saved lives.



Funding



The Ask: Support an increase in the State budget for victim services.

The Need: Federal funding makes up on average 43% of program budgets- nearly half comes from the Victims of Crime Fund. By October 1st of this year GA will face a \$44M deficit in Federal funding from VOCA for victim services. This will decimate program budgets – particularly those in rural communities- and make it nearly impossible for programs to provide consistent, direct services to victims across the state.

The Impact: Domestic Violence Shelters and Sexual Assault Centers, as well as culturally specific community-based programs provide life-saving services for adults and children every day. With an increase in funds from the state, advocates can continue to provide these services and significantly reduce the number of victims turned away.





STAND WITH SURVIVORS

ANNUAL ADVOCACY DAYS

Stalking



SB83- Update GA's Stalking Statute

The Ask: Revise the definition of stalking to include stalking that occurs in the home.

The Need: The vast majority of stalking victims are stalked by someone they know. 85% of attempted and 76% of completed intimate partner fatalities were preceded by stalking in the prior year.

The Impact: When survivors who have been stalked in their own homes are given a pathway to safety by being able to access a stalking TPO, it decreases the risk of escalated violence.



Dating Violence TPO Fix



The Ask: Amend O.C.G.A 16-5-95, "Violation of a Family Violence Protective Order," to add language that makes violating a dating violence TPO equally punishable by law to the family violence TPO.

The Need: Currently there is no legally binding enforcement mechanism for courts to follow when a person violates a dating violence TPO because the criminal code only makes violating the family violence protective order criminally actionable.

The Impact: Without a means to enforce dating violence TPOs, Georgia's justice system is left with ambiguous authority and the inability to legally take enforcement action when responding to dating violence protective order violations. Courts and law enforcement officers need clear statutory authority to act when a dating violence protective order is violated to enhance safety and accountability.

