

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES of FAYETTE COUNTY
P.O. Box 995, Uniontown, PA 15401
724-437-2530

The Honorable Thomas P. Caltagirone, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
106 Irvis Office Building
PO Box 202127
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2127

August 5, 2008

Re: House Bill 59

Dear Chairman Caltagirone:


As a member of the Board of Directors of Domestic Violence Services of Fayette County, Inc., I am writing to ask that you submit this letter as testimony favoring House Bill 59. At a time when funding is shrinking and inflation is growing, the importance of HB 59 cannot be understated. The additional fees generated by adding a small amount to the cost of filing for a divorce or a marriage license would provide much needed dollars to domestic violence services throughout the state. As each of us is individually suffering due to the rising costs of heating, food, etc., so is our program suffering.

The dedicated funding provided by HB 59 Bill would provide for vitally needed services to victims of domestic violence. In the past fiscal year, we have served over 900 battered women and children who were at risk for serious injury at the hands of their perpetrators. We provide legal services and shelter for these victims. These and additional services are provided to victims at no cost to them. Additionally, our Education Specialist visits the schools in the county to let children know that violence is wrong and discusses alternate solutions for families living with violence.

Funding streams are diminishing as costs rise, and victims continue to cry for help. Our fund raising efforts have to become increasingly creative in order to compete for the fewer and fewer donation dollars given by the public.

Again, I ask for support of HB 59. We have to keep our programs functioning to break the cycle of violence that persists in many families in our county.

Sincerely,



Dr. Anette M. DeNardo, Chair
DVS Fayette Fund Raising Committee