



Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland & Perry Counties

P.O. Box 1039, Carlisle, PA 17013-6039
(717) 258-4806 (717) 258-1677 fax
www.dvscp.org

August 11, 2008

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

Dear Chairman Caltagirone:

My name is Deborah Donahue; I have served as the Executive Director of Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland & Perry Counties (DVS/CP) for the past ten years. I am submitting this written testimony to urge you to support HB59, which will provide a dedicated funding stream for domestic violence programs across Pennsylvania

Since 2002, DVS/CP has been faced with state and federal cutbacks totaling over \$35,000. Due to these cutbacks, DVS/CP had to eliminate two fulltime positions. One position was a fulltime counselor/advocate, which provided on-going supportive services for victims of domestic violence. The elimination of this position has caused a delay for clients in receiving crisis counseling, safety planning, and assistance with developing a goal plan to escape their abuse.

The second position that DVS/CP eliminated was a fulltime public education specialist, reducing the number of prevention education programs presented to schools and the community. These programs are vital as a means to reach victims of domestic violence and to educate the community about the impact of violence against women and children.

In addition, DVS/CP has delayed maintenance projects at our emergency shelter such as an upgrade to our security system and replacement of corroded entrance doors. This has a direct impact on the safety of our residents and staff members.

Without an increase in funding, programs like DVS/CP will be forced to make further staff reductions and clients will be unable to gain immediate access to vitally needed services. Thank you for your consideration in support of House Bill 59. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 717-258-4806.

Sincerely,

Deborah Donahue
Executive Director