

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

February 15, 2019

Senator Holly Mitchell
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Maria Elena Durazo
Chair, Budget Subcommittee No. 4
State Capitol, Room 5066
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Shirley Weber
Chair, Budget Subcommittee No. 5
State Capitol, Room 3123
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support – \$50 Million Ongoing Funding for Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention

Dear Senators Mitchell and Durazo and Assemblymembers Ting and Weber,

We, the undersigned members of the California State Legislature, request \$50 million in ongoing funds be appropriated toward sexual and domestic violence prevention programs administered by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) through a competitive grant process. This request funds the existing Family Violence Prevention grant program and updates it to include sexual violence prevention, therefore expanding prevention efforts in California by providing financial and technical assistance to local domestic and sexual violence programs implementing existing prevention strategies tailored to their communities.

According to the World Health Organization, one in three women worldwide is a victim of either sexual violence or intimate partner violence in their lifetime.¹ This type of violence is no less prevalent in the State of California, and year after year, the safety of California communities is jeopardized by sexual assault and domestic violence. Prevention of sexual and domestic violence is a complex and urgent issue that demands our attention.

An estimated 1.6 million California women and men experience domestic violence each year.² A 2018 study determined that the lifetime burden of domestic violence in California is nearly \$4 billion in 2014 US dollars.³ A recent report found that the cost of sexual violence in California, including medical and mental health care, prevention, investigation, victim services, lost quality of life and lost work productivity, is over \$140 billion.⁴

Investing in prevention efforts, while maintaining and improving trauma-informed services, can stop this violence and abuse before it starts. We know that prevention can have tremendous positive impacts. Investment in prevention reduces the trauma individuals and communities experience and decreases cost to victims, government, and overall society.⁵

A growing body of research has identified prevention strategies and approaches with a demonstrated impact on rates of domestic violence. Across California, there are organizations already implementing these approaches and eager to expand their prevention programming, and even more organizations ready to take on this work if provided the funding to support their efforts.

Prevention efforts shown to have an impact on reducing violence include:

- Teaching safe and healthy relationship skills
- Engaging influential adults and peers, including engaging men and boys as allies and bystander empowerment
- Parenting skill and family relationship programs, and work with at-risk children and families
- Creating protective environments by improving school climate and safety, improving the physical and social environments of neighborhoods, organizational policies and workplace climate
- Strengthening economic supports for families, and
- Supporting survivors to increase safety and lessen harm

With \$50 million in ongoing funding, we can transform our state's approach to addressing domestic and sexual violence by providing meaningful investments in prevention. Currently, the State of California does not appropriate *any* funding toward sexual violence prevention. This is an opportunity for the California State Legislature to lead the way in ending domestic *and* sexual violence in our communities.


Additionally, rape crisis centers have an annual appropriation of only \$45,000. Through our budget request last year, rape crisis centers received a one-time appropriation of \$5 million. This budget request includes \$5 million ongoing to allow rape crisis centers to expand their services and invest in prevention.

The strategies outlined above will demonstrate California's leadership to prevent and end domestic and sexual violence, and make all of our communities safer and stronger. Now is the time to prioritize prevention and build upon the existing groundwork and momentum to end sexual and domestic violence. For these reasons, we respectfully request that you consider this budget allocation of \$50 million.

Sincerely,



Senator Jim Beall
District 15



SD 22



Assemblymember Blanca E. Rubio
District 48

Cc: Governor Gavin Newsom.
Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins
Senate Minority Leader Patricia Bates
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Assembly Minority Leader Marie Waldron

¹ World Health Organization, available at: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>
² Smith, S.G., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Gilbert, L.K., Merrick, M.T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. (2017). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 State Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
³ Peterson, C., Kearns, M., LiKam McIntosh, W., Fuino Estefan, L., Nicolaidis, C., McCollister, K., Gordon, A., Florence, C. (2018) Lifetime Economic Burden of Intimate Partner Violence Among U.S. Adults.
⁴ Miller, T., Fulton, D., Lee, D. (2018). The Cost and Consequences of Sexual Violence in California.
⁵ Clark KA, Biddle AK, Martin SL. (2002). *A cost benefit analysis of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994*. Violence Against Women; 8(4): 417-428.