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Member Agencies

Blackstone Valley
Advocacy Center
Domestic Violence
Resource Center of
South County
Elizabeth Buffum
Chace Center

Women's Resource Center

Task Force

Sisters Overcoming
Abusive Relationships

Affiliate Members

Center for Southeast Asians
Crossroads Rhode Island
Family Service of Rhode Island
McAuley Ministries –
McAuley Village
Progreso Latino
YWCA Rhode Island

To: Representative Marvin Abney, Chair of the House Finance Committee
Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Lucy Rios, Executive Director
RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Date: May 2, 2024

Re: **Support for House Bill 7338, Revenue for R.I.**

On behalf of our network of member agencies and SOAR, our taskforce of survivors, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence appreciates this opportunity to express **our strong support for H-7338**. This bill would create an additional personal income surtax of 3% on taxable income over \$1,000,000, with the existing three-bracket personal income tax structure remaining in place, impacting only the top one percent (1%) of taxpayers. This proposal would raise much-needed revenue for Rhode Island, including **new and desperately needed funding allocated for affordable, reliable, and quality childcare and early learning opportunities for Rhode Island's children.**

This proposal will have no effect on Rhode Island filers whose taxable income is \$1 million or less; even millionaires whose taxable income after deductions and credits is \$1 million or less will see no change in their taxes. This will impact only an estimated 2,134 tax filers and will generate an estimated \$126 million in new revenue. This legislation would generate a critical new source of revenue, which could be appropriated for Child Care and Early Education, Public Education (Kindergarten through College), Roads & Bridges, and Public Transportation. In 45 out of 50 states, lower-income households pay a larger share of their income in state and local taxes than high-income households. There are currently six states that have adopted a tax on millionaires (California, Connecticut, Maine, New Jersey, New York, and Washington D.C.) to make the tax system fairer and to generate revenue needed to fund essential services for families and children.

The purpose of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) is to eliminate and prevent domestic violence in Rhode Island. Our mission is to support and enhance the work of our member agencies and to provide leadership on the issue of domestic violence. The member agencies of the RICADV provide essential services to thousands of survivors of domestic violence and their children every year in Rhode Island. **The pandemic magnified the need for greater revenue in Rhode Island for a real investment in intimate partner violence prevention strategies, including quality childcare and equitable early learning opportunities for all children.**

The critical new revenue raised by this legislation to fund vital social services and public education, while freeing up other revenue to address domestic violence prevention efforts, would be collected from those most able to contribute a fair share following an unprecedented public health crisis. Those in the top 1% of the economy have not been financially harmed by the pandemic and the economic crisis. The top 1% can afford to pay a fair share through this equitable tax and it makes sense to ask them to do so now, when our neighbors and Rhode Island's children face their greatest need.

We urge the House of Representatives and the General Assembly to pass this critical legislation during this session. Thank you very much for your consideration and we urge you to support this much-needed proposal.