



Women's Resource Center

WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITY TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

April 7, 2025

Chair O'Brien
House Finance Committee/Public Safety Subcommittee
Re: FY26 Budget re the Office of Public Safety,

Dear Chair O'Brien and members of the committee,

The Women's Resource receives VOCA funding through the Department of Public Safety. The programs these funds support serve 550 survivors of domestic violence annually.

We have consistently seen these funds going down as federal funding wanes. These VOCA dollars are only federal pass-through funds and Rhode Island current spends almost no state funds on victims.

At the same time, Rhode Island spends approximately \$7,800 per prisoner each year. By allocating just 10% of that amount— about \$750—toward supporting each of the state's 42,000 victims, Rhode Island could commit \$30 million to vital victim services.

You will hear Chair Craven's bill, H5390 the VICTIM Act, this session which would do just that -- create a grant pool of \$30 Million to fund supporting programming for the victims and survivors we work with each day.

Other states make significant investments in their victims, not just their prisoners. We urge you to join those states and add victim funding into the FY26 Public Safety Budget this year.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter,

Jessica Walsh
Executive Director
