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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 Robert E. Craven, Sr., Chair of the House Judiciary Committee  
Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee

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

Date: March 5, 2024

**Re: Support for House Bill 7747**

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On behalf of our network of member agencies statewide, and SOAR, our taskforce of survivors, **the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) appreciates this opportunity to express our support for House Bill 7747.** This bill would enhance the state Crime Victim Compensation Program (CVCP), administered by the office of the General Treasurer, by permitting victims to use program funds to make modifications to their residence to ensure victim safety.

We support the bill's passage to better protect survivors of crime and violence in our Rhode Island communities. People who have survived domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking, trafficking, and other crime deserve security and peace of mind as they rebuild and recover from their trauma. Our current statute funds relocation costs for survivors of crime, but there are significant barriers that victims currently face if they seek to make home modifications, such as enhanced security systems or other improvements, in the aftermath of a crime. Not every survivor may want or need to relocate, and it is essential that our CVCP funds are flexible and can support the unique safety needs of crime survivors wherever they live.

We thank the Office of the General Treasurer for introducing this important legislation and we look forward to further conversations with the Committee regarding the additional ways this critical and life-saving program can be enhanced and improved in the future to serve all survivors in Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony and we urge you to pass this important legislation.