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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 6, 2025

Re: **Support for House Bill 5473**

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. 5473**. This bill would create an additional personal income surtax of 3% on taxable income over \$625,000, 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 under \$625,000. This will impact only an estimated 5,700 tax filers and will generate an estimated \$190 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.

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. As federal funding to support families and survivors becomes less reliable, there is a magnified need for greater revenue in Rhode Island to invest 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. 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.