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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 Susan R. Donovan, Chair of the House Health and Human Services Committee
Honorable Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee

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

Date: March 13, 2025

Re: **Support for House Bill 6038**

On behalf of our network of member agencies and SOAR, our taskforce of survivors, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) appreciates this opportunity to express our **strong support for House Bill 6038**. This legislation amends current law so that initial contraceptive prescriptions would no longer be limited to a 3-month supply, a restriction that complicates access and reduces consistency of contraceptive use.

Restricting any access to reproductive health services and choices places particularly dangerous burdens on victims of domestic and sexual violence. Victims of domestic violence are at a significantly higher risk for unintended pregnancy because partners who use violence will often sabotage or interfere with their partner's birth control in an attempt to exercise control over their reproductive decisions. In a 2010 study conducted jointly by the University of California-Davis School of Medicine and the Harvard School of Public Health, researchers found that at least 35% of domestic violence victims reported reproductive control by their abusive partner either by contraception interference or coercion to become pregnant.¹

Restrictions that complicate access to contraception provide additional leverage for people who use violence to threaten, trick, or intimidate their victims into continuing with an unwanted pregnancy. The legislature should act to ensure that all Rhode Islanders have reliable access to the reproductive health and contraception options they need. This will prevent unintended pregnancies by at-risk domestic violence victims who face additional danger when a pregnancy is added to a violent and abusive relationship.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. We urge you to support **House Bill 6038**.

¹ "Pregnancy Coercion, Intimate Partner Violence, and Unintended Pregnancy," Miller, et al. *Contraception*, Volume 81, Issue 4, 2010.