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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 Carol Hagan McEntee, 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 12, 2026

**Re: Support for House Bill 7547**

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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 7547** to permit victims of stalking to recover expenses related to relocation or home modification under the crime victim compensation program (CVCP).

Each year in Rhode Island, hundreds of victims of crime are supported by funds awarded through our state's CVCP. Current program funds are put to critical use supporting victims and their families with:

- Crime scene clean up
- Dependent care
- Economic support
- Funeral/burial costs
- Medical/dental services
- Mental health services
- Relocation costs
- Sexual assault forensic exams
- Travel costs

The importance of this program to survivors of crime, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, cannot be overstated. These funds are used by survivors every day to exit dangerous situations, access mental health counseling, or recover costs related to lost wages or medical bills. Our CVCP helps relieve some of the stress and economic burden placed unfairly on people in our state who have survived a violent crime.

However, at present, victims of stalking in RI are not eligible to receive compensation through this program. Stalking is a form of violence that many domestic violence survivors experience and can create long lasting physical and mental health impacts, in addition to reducing survivors' ability to operate in the world free from threats and violence. **We are grateful to the sponsor and the Office of the General Treasurer for recognizing this gap in resources for stalking survivors, and we hope that future investment in this program can mean that stalking victims are entitled to the full range of program benefits, not only relocation or home modification assistance.**

We support this bill and are hopeful that sustained funding and attention to this program will greatly benefit victims in RI. Future investment in our CVCP will support the Office of the General Treasurer to further expand options and supportive resources for all victims in our state.

We thank the sponsor and the Office of the General Treasurer for introducing this legislation and we look forward to further conversations with the Committee regarding the additional ways this life-saving program can be enhanced in the future. Thank you for considering our **support of House Bill 7547**.