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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 Evan P. Shanley, Chair of the House State Government and
Elections Committee
Honorable Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee

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

Date: March 6, 2025

Re: Concerns Regarding House Bill 5454

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 **concerns regarding House Bill 5454**. This legislation places undue burdens on the nonprofit sector in Rhode Island by proposing that each organization publicly disclose staff salaries in exchange for consideration of state grant funding.

As an organization, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence provides leadership on the issue of domestic violence by elevating the work of our member agencies who provide services to thousands of domestic violence survivors across the state every year. The care and resources we provide to survivors in our state are mainly funded by federal and state resources, and as such, we are committed to financial transparency. Beyond our annual submission of IRS Form 990, our annual report, which is available publicly through our website, contains detailed financial disclosures regarding the use of our funds.

As the committee considers this bill, significant privacy concerns must be raised. As a small team, these disclosures would impact ten of our thirteen full-time employees, unnecessarily releasing their salary information or risking the loss of critical state funds that support the lifesaving services our network provides to survivors of domestic violence.

We are not convinced that the requirements proposed in this bill will enhance public trust in our legislative grant application process. Instead, they expose the workforce of our entire state's nonprofit sector, including our small and dedicated team, to serious invasions of privacy and additional, unnecessary administrative burdens.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.