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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: Senator Louis DiPalma, Chair of the Senate Finance Committee
Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee

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

Date: April 30, 2026

Re: **Support for Senate Bill 2238**

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 S. 2238**. This bill would create an additional personal income surtax of 3% on taxable income over \$640,000, 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 \$640,000. Further, while we applaud Governor McKee for including a 3% surtax on income above one million dollars, we want to **encourage the Committee to support Senator Murray's S. 2238, establishing a tax on the top 1% of earners in the state**. This policy intervention would raise \$203 million/year - \$68 million/year more than the surtax included in the existing budget - which the state could use to address the \$100 million budget gap for FY27, so that no critical safety net programs are threatened.

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. Loss of financial stability is a prominent reason that victims are unable to leave an abusive relationship. Poverty and income inequality are root causes of domestic violence, which has effects on the adults and children in the family. Economic policies that protect safety net programs and provide families with financial resources help ensure that domestic violence survivors are more financially stable and independent, and that their economic situation would not prevent them from being able to care for their families. Domestic violence survivors and their families deserve a stable and safe environment, both physically and financially.

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 State Senate 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.