

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER BECAUSE WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Sexual assault and domestic violence affect all of us – regardless of income, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion or zip code. As providers, we know that we depend on each other to provide necessary services to ensure greater safety for survivors and their children.

That's why we are uniting to call for the full reinstatement of language and funding for sexual assault and domestic violence services in Massachusetts.

The severe **40% CUT** proposed by Senate Ways & Means could mean closure for some of these vital programs. For others, it will drastically compromise their ability to respond to victims in crisis, reach those who are marginalized because of cultural, linguistic and other barriers, hold offenders accountable and work to make our communities safer.

SUPPORT ELDRIDGE AMENDMENT (EHS #599): Restore Language and Fund Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Services (Line item 4513-1130) at FY09 level of \$6.3 million

- ❖ **Batterers Intervention Programs (BIPs):** Supports 15 certified batterer intervention programs provide vital services to rehabilitate abusers, assess dangerousness and provide critical informational referrals for partners and their children.
- ❖ **Prevention:** Supports 4 programs through the Close to Home MA Prevention Initiative, which is engaging all community members (youth, residents, civic leaders) in Dorchester, Waltham, Martha's Vineyard, and Brockton to reach out to those affected by domestic and sexual violence and develop and implement local community based prevention strategies.
- ❖ **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Domestic Violence Programs:** Supports the only 2 GLBT-specific safe home programs in the state. GLBT survivors often face individual and systemic heterosexism, sexism, gender bias and homo/bi/transphobia when attempting to access mainstream domestic violence services.
- ❖ **Rape Crisis and Sexual Assault Services:** Supports 17 rape crisis programs, the only resource for free, confidential, multi-disciplinary and multi-lingual support and advocacy services for victims of rape and sexual abuse; Llámanos y Hablemos (Llámanos), the statewide Spanish language helpline; and prevention partnerships that increase community support and commitment to ending sexual violence.
- ❖ **Refugee and Immigrant Safety and Empowerment (RISE) Program:** Supports 22 organizations in the provision of culturally and linguistically-competent domestic violence and sexual assault services for immigrant and refugee victims of violence across the state.

Supported by Batterer Intervention Service providers, Close to Home, Jane Doe Inc. and sexual assault providers, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Domestic Violence Service providers, MIRA (Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy) Coalition and RISE providers.