

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCACY DAY 2019

WASHINGTON STATE COALITION

**WSCADV**

AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY AGENDA

### LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY AGENDA SUMMARY:

#### **Domestic violence prevention:**

*(Budget request: \$2M 2019-21 Operating budget):* Increase funding for statewide domestic violence prevention efforts. Domestic violence is preventable if we provide youth and communities with the knowledge and skills they need to build healthy relationships. Additional funding would bring innovative multi-year prevention programs to more communities statewide.

#### **Assistance for victims of trafficking & other serious crimes:**

*(SB 5164 / HB 1971):* Expand access to critical services and support benefits for immigrants harmed by human trafficking & other serious crimes. Immigrant victims of trafficking and abuse are frequently trapped in dangerous situations and vulnerable to further exploitation because they struggle to meet basic needs. Increasing access to state programs for food, medical, and economic supports while these survivors apply for federal assistance can improve lives, promote community safety, and reduce further victimization.

#### **Housing:**

*(Budget Request: \$200M 2019-21 Capital budget, SB 5600 / HB 1453, SB 5733 / HB 1656):* Invest in additional affordable housing resources through the Housing Trust Fund and protect housing stability with additional tenant protections. No one should have to choose between living with an abusive partner or becoming homeless. Investing in affordable housing creation and improving tenant rights, including eviction protections, will increase survivors' access to housing and improve safety and stability for families.

#### **Economic stability:**

*(SB 5810 / HB 1527):* Increase economic security for survivors and other low-income Washingtonians by funding the Working Families Tax Credit (WA's version of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit). One of the main reasons people stay with or return to an abusive partner is that they don't have the money to support themselves or their children. Decreasing poverty for low-income Washingtonians would increase survivor safety and help reduce the conditions that enable violence.

**For more information contact:**

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