



# 2025

**WASHINGTON STATE COALITION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

# **STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT**

**WSCADV**



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# MESSAGE FROM SHERRIE

Each year, the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) advocates at the Washington State Legislature to advance policies that support survivors and promote safety, dignity, and justice. The 2025 legislative session was a long session, running from January 13 to April 27.

This legislative session brought many pivots and new faces to the WSCADV policy team, and we are proud of what we accomplished together. Our team brought energy, insight, and dedication to every part of the process—from tracking bills and analyzing policy to organizing Advocacy Days and supporting testimony. Their collective efforts made this session a success. I want to acknowledge and thank our policy team:

- Rosalind Arch, Public Policy Specialist
- Karin White, Policy Analyst (Contractor)
- Jake Fawcett, Program Coordinator
- Debriella Debrecki & Diana Alvarez (interns)
- WSCADV staff who served as content experts
- And, of course, Nan Stoops, who served as our air traffic controller, keeping everything moving on course

This year, we tracked 175 bills that could impact survivors' safety, housing, economic stability, legal access, and more. Our top priority was securing funding for victim services, especially in light of federal VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) cuts that threatened to reduce or eliminate critical programming. Thanks to a strong, collaborative effort, \$20 million was secured to maintain services for the upcoming year.

We are deeply grateful to:

- WSCADV Member Programs for your tireless support, rapid responses to action alerts, and powerful testimony. Your voices made a difference.
- Victim services partners for your collaboration and shared advocacy to lift up the importance and need for State funding to protect victim services across the state.

If you have questions, ideas, or suggestions for WSCADV's future policy work, please reach out to me at [sherrie@wscadv.org](mailto:sherrie@wscadv.org). We're already looking ahead to what we can accomplish together next session.



Sincerely,  
**Sherrie Tinoco**

**Public Policy Director**  
**Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence**  
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# BUDGET UPDATE

During the 2024 legislative session, **advocates across Washington urged lawmakers to take bold action to address the ongoing crisis in victim services funding.** With federal VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) dollars down 76% since 2018 – dropping from \$74.7 million to just \$17.8 million – programs that support survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and other crimes have been pushed to the brink. The state has provided temporary backfill funding for four years in a row, but these short-term measures have not been enough to create stability or meet growing demand.

This year, the field came together to support HB 1487 and SB 5362, companion bills that would have provided long-term, stable funding for victim services by allocating \$50 million in the 2025–2027 state budget – with a plan to increase that investment to \$70 million per biennium over time. These bills recognized that without sustained funding, programs would face devastating service cuts when the current temporary funds expire on June 30, 2025.

Despite strong advocacy and clear need, the Legislature did not pass the bills. Instead, they included a **one-time appropriation of \$20 million for fiscal year 2025.** While this stopgap measure will help programs stay afloat for another year, it falls far short of what is needed to stabilize services and plan for the future. It leaves the field in the same precarious position – returning next session to fight again for what survivors need and deserve.

Programs are struggling. **On a single day in 2024, more than 450 requests for domestic violence services went unmet across the state due to a lack of resources.** Without long-term funding, more survivors will be turned away, and more communities – especially tribal and culturally specific programs – will lose access to the vital services that save lives.

The outcome of this session was a missed opportunity to move beyond crisis management and invest in lasting solutions. As we look toward the 2025 legislative session and the next biennial budget, **we urge lawmakers to prioritize survivor safety and make a meaningful investment to keep these life-saving services available across Washington State.**



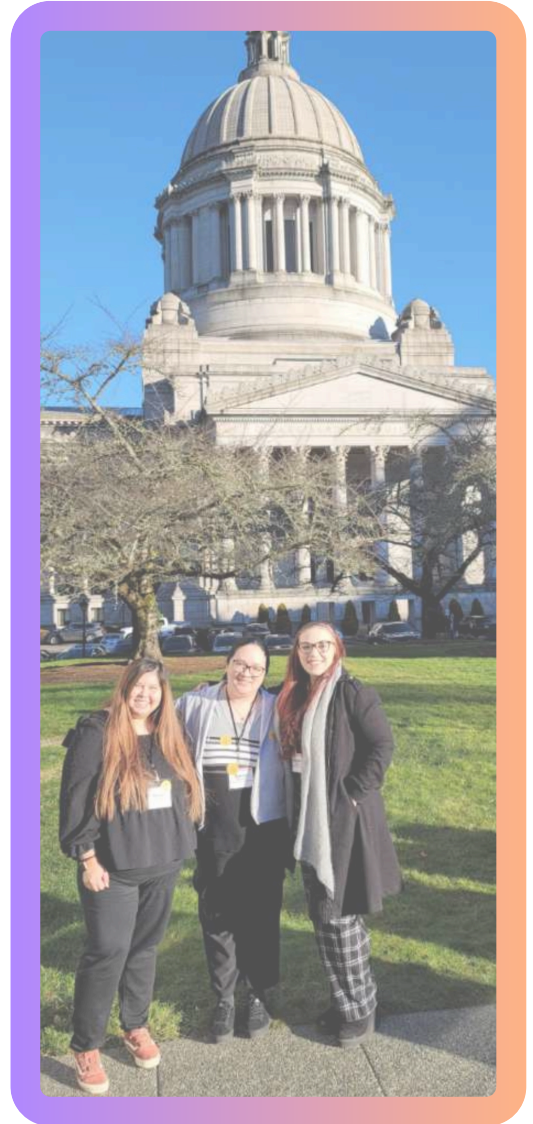


# ADVOCACY DAY 2025

On February 10-11, 2025, a group of 125 survivors, board members, directors, and advocates came together in Olympia to share their experiences, lift up the voices of those most impacted by proposed legislation and funding cuts, and urge lawmakers to take action.

Advocacy Day 2025 was a huge success! The energy and commitment in every conversation underscored the critical need for investment in services that support survivors and strengthen our communities.

We met with approximately 120 legislators to discuss the ongoing budget crisis and SB 5362 and HB 1487, legislation that seeks to provide vital, ongoing, stable funding for survivor services across Washington state. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this day so impactful!





# BILLS THAT PASSED

## **HB 1620 – PARENTING PLANS / DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTIONS**

Makes adjustments to family law that can protect survivors navigating parenting plans—especially where ongoing abuse, control, or safety concerns are present.

## **HB 1460: PROTECTION ORDER HOPE CARDS**

This bill creates “Hope Cards” – wallet-sized laminated cards that provide a simple, summary of a survivor’s protection order. These cards can make it easier to communicate the terms of a protection order to law enforcement, employers, or schools. It’s a small but powerful tool that promotes safety, empowerment, and ease for survivors navigating life with a protection order in place.

## **SB 5202 – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTION ORDERS (DVPOS)**

Updates DVPO laws to improve notification systems for survivors, and allows for petitions that include a minor to continue when that minor turns 18—ensuring continuity of protection.

## **SB 5355 – CAMPUS SAFETY FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS**

Requires colleges and universities to provide clear, trauma-informed resources and training, and strengthens survivors’ rights in campus processes.



# BILLS THAT PASSED

## **SB 5498 – CONTRACEPTION ACCESS**

Requires insurers to cover a 12-month supply of contraceptives when prescribed, reducing gaps in access—especially important for survivors at risk of reproductive coercion or control.

## **HB 1028 – CHILDREN EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE/CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS**

This bill amends some existing language in RCW 26.44 and adds a new section that further defines the approach of Child Advocacy Centers. It updates language written over 20 years ago. The definition of a child forensic interview is updated, as is the definition of what a Child Advocacy Center is and does. It also adds a new section requiring peer reviews of child forensic interviews for quality assurance purposes; confidentiality of such interviews remains intact.

## **HB 1174 – CERTIFIED COURT INTERPRETERS**

Guarantees access to credentialed interpreters in court, reducing barriers for survivors with limited English proficiency and ensuring fair, accurate proceedings.

## **HB 1205 – FORGED DIGITAL LIKENESSES (DEEPFAKES)**

Prohibits the knowing distribution of forged digital likenesses (like non-consensual deepfakes), which are increasingly used in harassment, abuse, and image-based sexual violence.



# BILLS THAT PASSED

## **HB 1215 – END-OF-LIFE DIRECTIVES FOR PREGNANT PEOPLE**

Removes discriminatory language from the Natural Death Act that invalidated end-of-life healthcare directives for pregnant individuals, affirming bodily autonomy and healthcare rights.

## **HB 1484 – EXCEPTIONAL SENTENCING FOR RAPE RESULTING IN PREGNANCY**

Allows courts to impose additional penalties in rape cases where the survivor becomes pregnant, recognizing the profound and lifelong impacts on both child and adult survivors.





# BILLS THAT FAILED

## **HB 1049: INCREASING ACCESS TO SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINER SERVICES**

This bill establishes a stipend program to defray out-of-pocket expenses incurred by registered nurses completing the training necessary to become adult/adolescent or pediatric sexual assault nurse examiners, with the goal of increasing the availability for these services.

## **HB 1072: PRESERVING ACCESS TO PROTECTED HEALTHCARE**

This bill protects the accessibility of reproductive healthcare, end-of-life care, and gender affirming care in communities across the state. It updates the statewide healthcare strategy and empowers the Department of Health and Attorney General to review transactions for anticompetitive conduct and consumer harm.

## **HB 1090: CONTRACEPTION COVERAGE**

This bill would have ensured insurance coverage for the full range of FDA-approved contraceptive methods, without cost-sharing, delays, or barriers. Access to contraception is a key part of bodily autonomy and economic stability for survivors.

## **HB 1498: CONCERNING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CO-RESPONDER PROGRAMS**

This bill aimed to fund programs that pair domestic violence advocates with law enforcement to respond to survivors' needs more effectively.

# BILLS THAT FAILED

## **HHB 1252: REGARDING PRETRIAL RELEASE**

This bill sought to promote more equitable and transparent pretrial release practices by requiring individualized assessments and reducing reliance on money bail. For survivors criminalized for their own survival, this could have been a step toward justice.

## **HB 1591: SURVIVOR JUSTICE ACT**

This bill would have allowed judges to consider a survivor's history of abuse when making sentencing decisions. Many survivors are incarcerated for actions connected to their experience of violence—this bill aimed to create a path to fairer outcomes.

## **HB 1125: JUDICIAL DISCRETION ON SENTENCE MODIFICATION**

This bill proposed to give judges more discretion to revisit and reduce sentences in certain cases. It had potential to benefit criminalized survivors serving long or unjust sentences.



# THANK YOU!

Thank you for supporting legislation for survivors this session! WSCADV is honored to advocate for survivors every session and could not do it without the valuable stories, wisdom, and passion our partner programs share with us.

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