

NC★Domestic Violence Commission

Approved 2023 Legislative Agenda

February 10, 2023

- **Increase funding for domestic violence programs.** Increased funding for domestic violence programs is needed to help programs avoid program cuts and reduced capacity in the wake of continued federal funding cuts, expiring American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, and increased community need.
- **Remove “opposite sex” language from the statutory definition of domestic violence relationships.** Current “opposite sex” language in G.S. 50B-1 defining domestic violence relationships has been found to be unconstitutional and should be amended to avoid confusion and legal inaccuracy.
- **Enact Extreme Risk Protective Order relief to prevent gun violence.** The Commission supports the enactment of Extreme Risk Protective Orders to provide additional relief options for survivors at risk of domestic violence homicide and other violence involving firearms.
- **Allocate designated funding to support domestic violence intervention programming.** Funding is needed to offset continued federal funding cuts and provide support, training, and programming for domestic violence intervention services to address current violence and prevent future domestic violence perpetration.
- **Expand magistrate authority to issue ex parte domestic violence protective orders.** The Commission supports removing the requirement that magistrate-issued ex parte DVPOs be reheard by district court judges upon court reopening, as this requirement often presents an insurmountable barrier to survivors seeking emergency relief.
- **Enact paid leave to support domestic violence prevention and response.** Paid leave, including family leave, safe days, kin care, and medical leave, is necessary to prevent domestic violence and provide survivors experiencing violence with the ability to seek relief and supports outside of the workplace.
- **Support requests for increased funding for legal services to survivors.** The Commission supports requests to increase funding for legal services to survivors in the wake of continued federal funding cuts to these essential services.