

Utah Domestic Violence Coalition

Advocate • Collaborate • Educate

2022 Domestic Violence Policy Priorities

IMPROVE STATEWIDE **ACCESS TO CORE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCACY** & OTHER CORE VICTIM SERVICES

INCREASE **SAFETY AND STABILITY** FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

IMPROVE AND EXPAND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE **OFFENDER TREATMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY**

Bill or Funding Request	Sponsor	What's the problem?	How does this bill or funding address it?
<p>Domestic Violence Shelter-Based Support Services Request for Appropriations (UDVC Fact Sheet)</p> <p>This request is a Tier One Priority under UDVC's Access to Core DV Services Policy Area.</p>	Rep. Ward	<p>Demand for domestic violence services in Utah continues to rise (COVID, population growth, better identification).</p> <p>In order for law enforcement to effectively respond to high-risk DV incidents, they must rely on Utah's system of private, not-for-profit DV shelter-based organizations. These programs therefore must be able to rely on Utah for stable, reliable funding.</p>	<p>Provides an increase of \$4.24M in stable, reliable state general funds for core operations of the 15 nonprofit, licensed domestic violence shelter-based service providers in Utah.</p> <p>Also supports UDVC statewide, 24-hour crisis support phone line and new support/referral hotline, hosted by Restoring Ancestral Winds, for domestic violence survivors who are part of Utah's eight Federally Recognized Tribes.</p>
<p>HB 117 – Victim Address Confidentiality Program</p> <p>This bill is a Tier One Priority under UDVC's DV Survivor Safety & Stability Policy Area.</p>	Rep. Pitcher Floor Sponsor: Sen. Weiler	<p>Utah is one of the only states in the nation that does not have an Address Confidentiality Program (ACP).</p> <p>ACPs are one tool in safety planning for survivors of domestic violence and other abuse. The victim's physical address is protected by listing ACP as the victim's legal address. ACP then forwards first-class mail to the victim's actual address.</p>	<p>Creates an address confidentiality program in the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) to provide additional location protection to victim of abuse.</p> <p>This is a concrete, straightforward, and low-cost (under \$200,000 per year) way for the State of Utah to provide victims with additional support and peace of mind so they can move forward with healing and independence.</p>

Bill	Sponsor	What's the problem?	How does this bill address it?
<p><u>HB 175 – Protection of Animals Amendments</u></p> <p>This bill is a Tier Two Priority under UDVC's Access to Core DV Services Policy Area.</p>	<p>Rep. Romero</p> <p>Floor Sponsor: Sen. Hinkins</p>	<p>Abusers may use household animals and pets as tools to control victims.</p> <p>While animals may be included as "property" in a protective order application, many victims are not aware that they can, and need to, specify that protection. It's also not always appropriate or accurate to include animals as the victim's property.</p>	<p>Adds animal harm and suffering to the definition of "emotional distress" and allows the court to include injuring or threatening to injure certain household animals as prohibited when issuing protective orders.</p> <p>Allows pets/animals to be protected even if the victim is not able to be with them.</p>
<p><u>HB 208 – Domestic Violence Offender Treatment Board</u></p> <p>This bill is a Tier One Priority under UDVC's DV Offender Treatment & Accountability Policy Area.</p>	<p>Rep. Snow</p> <p>Floor Sponsor: Sen. McKell</p>	<p>There are currently no statewide standards for domestic violence offender treatment. Courts have no way to know who is qualified to provide treatment when they order it.</p> <p>Offenders receive ineffective treatment or slip through the cracks entirely.</p> <p>Decreases accountability and increases the risk to victims and community safety.</p>	<p>Creates a state level board to address these long-standing problems.</p> <p>Board to establish standards for current, research-based treatment modalities and process for holding clinicians accountable to those standards.</p> <p>Board includes clinicians with expertise in offender treatment, as well as victim advocates.</p> <p>Increases victim and community safety and possibility of safe family reunification.</p>
<p><u>HB 228 – Crime Victim Reparations Amendments</u></p> <p>This bill is a Tier Two Priority under UDVC's DV Survivor Safety & Stability Policy Area.</p>	<p>Rep. Ivory</p> <p>Floor Sponsor: Sen. Iwamoto</p>	<p>Strangulation significantly increases injury and lethality risk for domestic violence victims. Often goes unrecognized by survivors and unaddressed by medical providers.</p> <p>Victims may be concerned about medical bills associated with going to the hospital for an exam.</p>	<p>Adds strangulation as a qualifying incident that domestic violence victims can apply for crime victim reparations funds to reimburse for medical costs, even if they do not cooperate with law enforcement.</p> <p>Decreases one barrier for victims to seek critical medical care after a life-threatening incident.</p>

Bill	Sponsor	What's the problem?	How does this bill address it?
<p><u>HB 351 – Domestic Violence Modifications</u></p> <p>This bill is a Tier One Priority under UDVC's Access to Core DV Services Policy Area.</p>	<p>Rep. Pierucci</p> <p>Floor Sponsor: Sen. Escamilla</p>	<p>In order to address a problem as widespread, complex, and impactful as domestic violence, all stakeholders need to be able to access timely, relevant, and comprehensive data on various aspects of the issue.</p> <p>Data regarding the scope and prevalence of domestic violence in Utah—as well as specific aspects of the highest risk violence and processes such as lethality assessments utilized by both law enforcement and victim advocates—is fragmented, insufficient, and out of date.</p>	<p>Creates a task force that includes all relevant state level stakeholders to assess the data that is available, how it can be streamlined and better coordinated, and what data is currently missing.</p> <p>The task force creates an overdue and structured process for the various government and nonprofit, community organizations that hold domestic violence data to come together and define the problems as well as create a collaborative strategy for addressing those problems statewide.</p>
<p><u>SB 217 – Protective Order Revisions</u></p> <p>This bill is a Tier Two Priority under UDVC's DV Survivor Safety & Stability Policy Area.</p>	<p>Sen. Weiler</p> <p>Floor Sponsor: Rep. Birkeland</p>	<p>Domestic violence survivors are often forced to leave the jurisdiction where the violence has occurred in order to be safe (e.g., to stay in a shelter or with loved ones). This can cause issues around jurisdiction confusion with the court when the survivor files an application for a protective order in the location where s/he is temporarily staying.</p> <p>Service providers note that jurisdictional issues are a common reason for protective orders to be denied or dismissed.</p>	<p>Clarifies that a protective order or civil stalking injunction may be filed in that county where a survivor may be temporarily staying.</p>