



2014 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCCADV) concentrated much of our energy this session in ensuring that funding for domestic violence programs was not cut due to the difficult budget climate. Details of funding and other legislation that NCCADV worked on during the session are outlined below.

Budget: No Cuts to Domestic Violence Programs

The budget maintained funding levels for the Domestic Violence Center Fund to be distributed to domestic violence programs. In addition, the House proposed that the grant administration of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault funds be transferred. NCCADV worked with legislators emphasizing that the timely disbursement of funds in order to preserve the critical life-saving services Domestic Violence programs provide every day should be the top priority of legislators in determining who will administer the domestic violence and sexual assault grants. Legislators heard our concerns and the final budget did not transfer the grant administration funds this year, avoiding a potential funding delay that could have come with a grant administration transfer. In addition, NCCADV the budget included \$10 million for the Workforce Housing Loan Program (the State Housing Tax Credit) which NCCADV supported as well as included \$75,000 of matching funds for REACH of Macon County for shelter construction.

HOUSE BILL 477, Allison's Law/Use of GPS Tracking Device/DVPO

HB 477 was passed by the House in the 2013 session but was not officially considered by the Senate in the 2014 session. The bill proposes to allow a domestic violence protective order to include a provision that a defendant the court finds has committed an act of domestic violence be subject to electronic monitoring by means of a Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking device or other similar device as a form of relief. Various stakeholders, including the NCCADV, law enforcement and the Department of Public Safety have been working with Representative Lambeth in discussing some of the issues and practical considerations of the legislation.

HB 369: Erin's Law Provision

Part of this legislation directs the Human Trafficking Commission to study the prevention of sexual abuse of children, and report the results of the study and its recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the 2015 General Assembly. NCCADV worked to ensure the provision was amended to include a number of organizations publicly committed to evidence-based curricula and

nondiscriminatory policies (particularly the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault) to the list of groups with whom the Human Trafficking Commission is directed to conduct their study.

HOUSE BILL 1133, Information Disclosure in Child Support Orders

The original child support provisions in HB189 were transferred to HB 1133 to help ensure their passage. These provisions amended the child support order statute to require each IV-D child support order, and each non IV-D child support order that contains an income withholding, to include the current residence and mailing address of the custodial parent, or the address of the child if the address of the custodial parent and the address of the child are different (existing law simply required the order to include the child's current and mailing address, unless certain exemptions apply). NCCADV worked to ensure that there were exceptions to this requirement for survivors of domestic violence so that disclosure would not affect their personal safety. NCCADV worked to have exceptions in the amended statute including 1) for custodial parents who have a court order which prohibits the disclosure of the custodial parent or child's address or 2) where disclosure would be inappropriate because the obligor (the one who is paying child support) has made verbal or physical threats that constitute domestic violence under Chapter 50B of the General Statutes.