

ADDITIONAL BILLS OF NOTE

ENHANCING SAFETY FOR CRIME VICTIM'S COMPENSATION | **SB 843**

AUTHOR: Senator Charles Perry
HOUSE SPONSORS: Representatives Abel Herrero and Joseph Moody
COMPANION BILL: HB 2387 (Herrero)
 Amending the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures by adding Article 56.65
EFFECTIVE: 09/01/17

Crime Victim's Compensation (CVC) represents a key source of support for victims of family violence allowing them to obtain assistance and lost wages among other costs. In order to receive this support, a victim must apply through the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and offer detailed information about themselves and the crime. SB 843 creates confidentiality protections for the information collected from crime victims by the CVC program at the OAG. These protections will prevent applicant information from disclosure in many circumstances allowing for an additional layer of safety for crime victims applying for CVC.



Chairman Joe Moody (El Paso) strongly supported the TCFV legislative agenda and we appreciate his leadership.

ADDRESSING VEXATIOUS LITIGATION IN PROTECTIVE ORDERS | **SB 257**

AUTHOR: Senator Van Taylor
HOUSE SPONSORS: Representative Tony Dale
COMPANION BILL: HB 472 (Dale)
 Amending the Texas Family Code, Section 85.025
EFFECTIVE: 09/01/17

SB 257 limits the number of motions to review a family violence protective order for continuing need. Protective order respondents may file a motion requesting dismissal of the order no earlier than one year after the order was entered; the law will now limit further review to one subsequent motion, filed no earlier than one year after the first such motion.



The Mary Kay Foundation underwrote Capitol Day this session and brought their sales associates in droves to help lobby at the Capitol!

ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY IN PROTECTIVE ORDER APPLICATIONS | **SB 1242**

AUTHOR: Senator José Rodríguez
HOUSE SPONSORS: Representative Cindy Burkett
 Amending the Texas Family Code by adding Section 82.011 and amending Sections 82.041 (a) and 85.007(b); amending the Texas Government Code, Section 411.042(b)
EFFECTIVE: 09/01/17

SB 1242 develops a process through which protective order applicants can request the courts keep their mailing address confidential. The applicant must provide the court clerk with the applicant's mailing address and the name and address of a designee to receive court documents. The clerk must then strike the applicant's mailing address from the public record; maintain a confidential record of it for use only by the court and by law enforcement for the purpose of DPS information system entry; and may not release the information to the respondent. The Notice of Application for the protective order then includes the applicant's attorney or designee's name and address information.



TCFV Board Chair and former Executive Director of Noah Project in Abilene, Leigh Ann Frye, spoke at the Purple Postcard press conference. On that day, TCFV delivered over 10,000 Purple Postcards to legislators from their constituents saying that they prioritize family violence funding.

THANK YOU

TCFV stands as Texas' statewide coalition of family violence centers. We work on behalf of these programs, survivors and many others that come into contact with survivors and their families. Although TCFV leads the effort at passing an impactful and important slate of legislation, we rely on our partners in local communities, our dedicated and diverse Board, and each of the legislators and their staff all whom worked tirelessly in support of both full funding and in passing all our legislative agenda. Thank you for helping us GO PURPLE!



TCFV partners and allies met with Sen. Jane Nelson on the steps outside of the Senate chamber to thank her for her continued support for family violence funding. From top left clockwise: Mary Kay's Crayton Webb, Kirsten Grappleberg and Anne Crews; Texas Association Against Sexual Assault Executive Director Annette Burrhus-Clay; Comal County District Attorney Jennifer Tharp; Sexual Assault and Family Violence Instructor Course's Nicole Martinez-Minton; Senator Jane Nelson; TCFV CEO Gloria Terry; family violence and sexual assault survivor Amy Staggs.

GO PURPLE UPDATE: THE 85th SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT



Texas Council On FAMILY VIOLENCE

TCFV AGENDA ITEMS

FUNDING FOR FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES

Although TCFV works very hard to make important changes to the substantive criminal and civil codes regrading family violence, funding for the safety net of family violence centers across the state rates as by far our most pressing priority. The 85th Session represented a challenging environment for safeguarding this funding, requiring TCFV and its partners and allies to work extra hard. Three key facts propelled us in making our point:

THE NEED: Over 72,000 women, children and men served in family violence centers last year lone

THE LETHALITY: 158 women killed by their male intimate partner in 2015 (the last year with full statistics)

THE REMAINING NEED: 39% of those seeking services turned away due to lack of space and resources

At a time when the legislature cut many important funded programs, we appreciate the legislature's ultimate decision to fund family violence center services through the Health and Human Services Commission at \$57.72 million, an increase from last session's appropriations. The legislature's decision to provide level funding in the amount of \$3.5 million to Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs (BIPPs) also showed their commitment to supporting responses to offenders. Finally, we also worked hard in session to continue funding for Domestic Violence High Risk Teams (DVHRTs) through the Office of the Attorney General's Office; this program will use \$600,000 to continue to support local communities as they create coordinate community responses that measure and respond to risk in specific domestic violence cases.

SAFETY IN CHILD CUSTODY DECISIONS | SB 539

AUTHOR: Senator Chuy Hinojosa

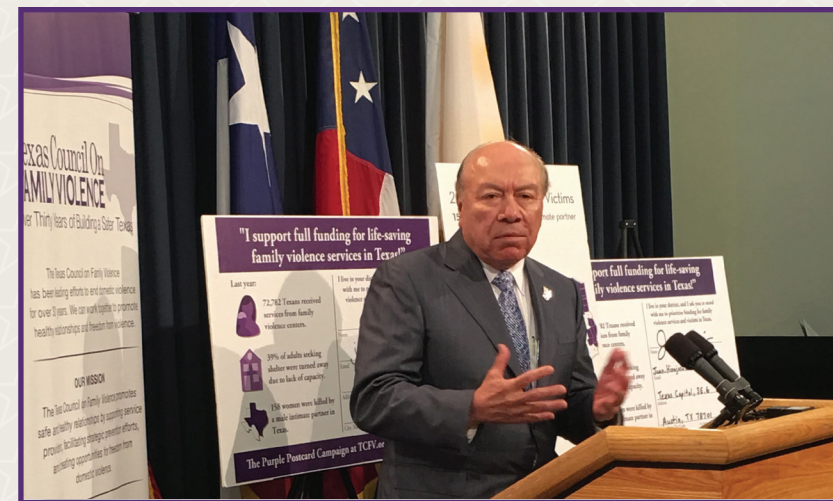
COAUTHOR: Senator Lois Kolkhorst

HOUSE SPONSORS: Representatives Todd Hunter and Abel Herrero

COMPANION BILL: HB 2929 (Hunter) Amending the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Section 154.052 (b)

EFFECTIVE: 09/01/17

SB 539 requires that court appointed mediators in child custody cases have a minimum of four hours of family violence dynamics training. These four hours are included within the 24 hours of training specific to family dynamics, child development and family law already required for these mediators. The family violence dynamics training must be developed in consultation with the Texas Council on Family Violence.



Sen. Hinojosa (McAllen), our long-time supporter and former TCFV board member, spoke at the Purple Postcard press conference and carried three of our legislative agenda items.

LONG-TERM PROTECTIVE ORDERS: A TOOL FOR SAFETY | SB 712

AUTHOR: Senator Chuy Hinojosa

HOUSE SPONSOR: Representative Todd Hunter

COMPANION BILL: HB 2021 (Hunter)

Amending the Texas Family Code, Section 85.025(a-1)

EFFECTIVE: 09/01/17

SB 712 expands eligibility for obtaining a protective order lasting longer than the standard two-year order. Now, victims whose abuse rose to the level of acts constituting felony family violence under Texas criminal law can obtain an order lasting up to the lifetime of the parties. SB 712 provides judges the discretion to enter appropriately longer protective orders in cases involving extreme or continuous violence, regardless of whether criminal charges were ever brought.



Rep. Hunter (Corpus Christi) joined with Abel Herrero (also Corpus Christi) to champion our legislative agenda in the House.

SAFER AT HOME: ENHANCED ADDRESS SAFETY | SB 256

AUTHOR: Senator Van Taylor

HOUSE SPONSOR: Representative Todd Hunter

COMPANION BILL: HB 2222 (Hunter)

Amends Code of Criminal Procedure, Articles 56.81-56.83, 56.90; Election Code 13.004; Tax Code 25.025

EFFECTIVE: 5/19/2017

SB 256 enhances the safety of home addresses for survivors of family violence by closing loopholes in key statutes. With this change, victims of family violence who have a protective order or other documentation outlined in Article 56.83 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, can more easily enroll in the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP). Also, SB 256 clarifies that law enforcement may only seek ACP participant address information for the purpose of an investigation. Finally, SB 256 allows more survivors to employ the protections available for home address appraisal records in the Tax Code as well as protect their addresses while voting as outlined in the Election Code.



Sen. Van Taylor (Plano) worked tirelessly during session to pass several family violence victim related bills as well as this key bill from our agenda.

VIP: VICTIM INFORMATION PRIVACY | HB 3649

AUTHOR: Representative Abel Herrero

SENATE SPONSOR: Senator Chuy Hinojosa

COMPANION BILL: SB 1757 (Hinojosa)

Amends Subtitle C, Title 4, Family Code to create Chapter 93

EFFECTIVE: 9/1/2017

HB 3649, the Victim Information Privacy (VIP) bill, will help victims of family violence seek supportive services from a family violence center with increased confidentiality by creating a privilege for written and oral confidential communications exchanged between a victim and an advocate. The victim or family violence centers on the victim's behalf may exert this privilege when served with a subpoena in connection with a civil or criminal court proceeding or otherwise. Importantly, the law will allow for a few exceptions, most notably the requirement to report child abuse.



Rep. Abel Herrero (Corpus Christi) continued his solid leadership on family violence by taking on our Victim Information Privacy (VIP) bill. Now victims will be able to keep their information private when they go to family violence centers.