



ADDRESSING LETHALITY FACTORS FOR FAMILY VIOLENCE VICTIMS

With increases in intimate partner homicide and incidents of family violence, intimate partner homicide is an issue that requires a collaborative team working towards solutions. With research consistently indicating that there are three top known lethality indicators; strangulation, stalking, and the intersection of firearms and intimate partner violence, this measure would create a 2-year lethality factor taskforce with explicit charges to make policy recommendations for the 90th legislative session.



ABILITY TO CONFER ON A PLEA NOTICE FOR FAMILY VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

Victims of sexual assault, stalking, indecent assault, and trafficking have the right to confer with the prosecutor on disposition decisions including plea agreements, rather than solely getting notice. This measure proposes to add victims of felony family violence to the list of people who can confer with prosecutors on the plea agreement, within Article 56A of the Code of Criminal Procedure. This measure would allow family violence survivors greater safety and voice in the criminal justice process while also addressing a gap in the list of rights afforded to family violence victims.



DATING VIOLENCE POLICY IMPLEMENTATION & SURVIVOR SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

Current code requiring dating violence policies (Section 37.0831, Education Code) has referenced implementation in district plans for nearly 20 years but the circular code reference was never made. This measure focuses on implementing these policies by adding clean up language to Section 11.252 of the Education Code to ensure that these policies are addressed in district improvement plans. Language would also be added to address survivor safety in reporting dating violence to parents. Survivors' parents would receive notification first to ensure time for safety planning and to require the survivor be offered safety resources and support. **(HB 1332, Representative Garcia)**

A second measure would allow for collection of data on dating violence in schools and would create a pathway for young people using violence to be referred to Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs (DAEPs) with the option for healthy relationship and dating violence education to be offered.



PROTECTING SURVIVORS FROM COLLECTION OF COERCED DEBT

This measure seeks to protect individuals from debt collection actions when they are victims of identity theft by adding a new section to the Texas Finance Code, establishing that creditors and debt collectors cannot collect on debts incurred as a result of identity theft under certain conditions. Creditors and debt collectors could pursue legal action against the perpetrator of the identity theft to recover the debt.