



INDIVIDUALLY WE POWER CHANGE.
TOGETHER WE POWER A MOVEMENT.

The Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) hears and shares the concerns of domestic violence survivors and resource providers regarding Senate Bill 8, the “Texas Heartbeat Act”. Our movement has always been firmly grounded in promoting survivor autonomy and privacy, along with opportunities to heal and thrive. Senate Bill 8 limits an individual’s access to abortion care while also threatening providers and support systems with hefty damages and attorney fees – both of which diminish survivors’ safety and undermine the empowerment, advocacy and lifesaving safety planning that family violence programs offer.

We are concerned. We know that domestic violence survivors in Texas experience reproductive coercion at significantly higher rates than the national average. We also know that pregnancy increases a person’s vulnerability to violence by an abusive partner. Women experiencing both reproductive coercion *and* domestic violence are less likely to have the autonomy to make decisions about contraception and family planning since domestic violence is rooted in issues of control over another person.

TCFV promises to continue to work with our network of family violence programs to offer responsive and survivor-centered services. Meaningful access to these services is an essential part of reducing negative health outcomes for domestic violence survivors. Because the movement to end domestic violence is strongest when we are connected and in conversation together, we look forward to continued collaborative discussions about how we can create a future free from violence.

To learn more, join us for a [webinar discussing responsive reproductive life planning advocacy](#) on Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day on October 13th. If you are a victim of domestic violence in need of support, the [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) is available via chat, text, or phone 24/7. Please reach out at 800-799-SAFE.