



Advocates to End Domestic Violence  
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Senator Melanie Scheible, Chair  
Members Senate Judiciary Committee  
401 South Carson Street,  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Chair Scheible and Members of the Committee:

Advocates to End Domestic Violence (AEDV) was founded in 1979 after the community of Carson City identified a lack of services for survivors of domestic violence at a time when there were few services for victim nationally, and even fewer in the State of Nevada. In the ensuing 42 years, AEDV services have been able to expand to include 24-hour crisis intervention, emergency shelter, transitional housing, case management, court advocacy, sexual assault advocacy, training and outreach, teen dating violence prevention, counseling and support groups as a result of Marriage License fees. For many years, Marriage License was the **ONLY** funding source AEDV received. This limited source is the foundation from which AEDV's crisis intervention services are funded.

Marriage License fees have enabled AEDV to **shelter 5,597** survivors, providing **186,798 nights** of emergency shelter and lifesaving opportunities. Survivors who seek AEDV's services are predominantly **low-income** women with young children and limited employment skills or young adults and minors who have been sexually assaulted. Last year, **Nevada was seventh** in the nation for **females murdered** by males according to the Violence Policy Center report "When Men Murder Women." The NCADV data illustrates that 43.8% of women and 32.8% of men in Nevada experience intimate partner physical and sexual violence or stalking in their lifetimes.

An increase in Marriage License fees will provide needed resources for rural programs that have limited opportunities to raise funds to support services but equally important, it will enable crisis intervention services for survivors of sexual assault to be developed in rural counties across Nevada – services that are **DESPERATELY** needed.

I realize that asking for an increase on Marriage Licenses is challenging – but so is keeping the doors of shelters open and answering crisis calls in the middle of the night. Without an increase in funding, many rural counties are endangered of reducing or losing services, as happened in Lyon County.

I call upon you to support SB-177.

Respectfully,

Lisa Lee  
Executive Director