



SAFE HOUSE

WHERE ABUSE ENDS & HEALING BEGINS

April 28, 2021

Assemblyman Steve Yeager, Chair
Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Nevada State Legislature
Carson City, Nevada

Dear Chair Yeager and Members of the Committee,

As Executive Director of S.A.F.E. House, I am writing to ask your support of SB177. S.A.F.E. House, located in Henderson, was founded in 1994. Since our inception, we have served over 85,000 people. We provide emergency shelter, counseling, advocacy, support groups, outreach, and education to victims of intimate partner violence, all free of charge. S.A.F.E. House also operates a crisis hotline that can be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We accomplish our mission with only 27 employees and a host of community volunteers.

COVID-19 has had a major impact on our operations, such as reducing shelter bed space to maintain social distancing, moving to telehealth services, and obtaining necessary personal protective equipment. Making these adjustments to our operations took incredible effort and coordination amongst employees, with strong leadership from our supervisory staff whose salaries are primarily supported by Marriage License funding. Also, our two major fundraising events, a brunch and silent auction and 5k run, both had to be cancelled.

According to the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, last year during the COVID-19 Pandemic, community-based programs reported serving 21,121 first time contacts and 11,989 repeat contacts... a 6% increase in clients statewide. They saw a 33% increase in hotline calls and a 14% increase in bed nights. Individuals typically experience multiple forms of abuse. In addition to domestic violence and sexual assault, victimization included child and elder abuse and neglect, child pornography, stalking, kidnapping, identity theft, burglary, teen dating violence, hate crimes, and human trafficking

Marriage License funding is the **only** state funding stream available for our programs, and it is also more flexible than federal grants and covers necessary infrastructure, such as leadership. As we have learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, we must be poised to expect the

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| Assembly Committee: Judiciary Exhibit: F Page 1 of 2 Date: 04/29/2021 Submitted by: Julie K. Proctor |
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S.A.F.E. HOUSE, INC.

STOP ABUSE IN THE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT

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Tax I.D. #88-0314066

unexpected if we want our services to be sustainable. Marriage License funding is vital to enhance statewide stability of social service agencies providing support to victims of intimate partner violence and sexual assault.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie K. Proctor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

Julie K. Proctor

Executive Director