

NC★Domestic Violence Commission

2025-26 Legislative Agenda

Approved by the Commission on February 20, 2026

- **Secure and stabilize funding that allows domestic violence service providers, including legal service providers for domestic violence victims, to continue serving our communities.** Government must provide more stable and consistent funding to help expert organizations provide life-saving services for victims of domestic violence. Domestic violence service providers and legal service providers for domestic violence victims in North Carolina are at risk of closing their doors or greatly reducing their capacity to serve their communities without additional state or federal funding.
- **Passage of the NC Survivors Justice Act** to mitigate the impacts of abuse on criminalized domestic violence survivors. This Act would create an alternative sentencing scheme for survivors who are convicted of a crime that resulted from their experience of domestic violence, human trafficking, or abuse. The bill also contains a resentencing mechanism for survivors who are already incarcerated. Second, the bill would expand the definition of the affirmative defense of self-defense to encompass the viewpoint of a reasonable person who has experienced domestic violence. Third, the bill would create a statutory mitigating factor for defendants who were a victim of domestic violence or human trafficking.
- **Increase affordable housing opportunities for survivors.** This Commission supports legislation and policy that increase emergency and long-term affordable housing opportunities for survivors of domestic violence. Survivors across the state struggle to find and maintain affordable housing, which is a major barrier in recovering from and preventing future violence.
- **Update domestic violence protective order statutory language to ensure all victims of domestic violence in North Carolina can seek relief.** This Commission supports common sense changes to our domestic violence protective order statute: (1) ensuring anyone who is abused in North Carolina can file for a protective order here, regardless of whether they have a primary residence in another state; and (2) removing unconstitutional, inaccurate statutory language from G.S. 50B-1.
- **Allocate designated funding to support domestic violence intervention programming.** Funding is needed to offset continued federal funding cuts and provide support, training, and programming for domestic violence intervention services to address current violence and prevent future domestic violence perpetration.
- **Provide legal avenues for survivors of economic abuse to eliminate liability for debt incurred via economic abuse.** This Commission advocates for coerced debt relief that would provide an opportunity for domestic violence survivors to eliminate debt liability for any debt that they were forced to incur by threat, coercion, physical force, or fraud.
- **Establish domestic violence-specific training for licensed medical professionals.** This Commission recognizes that medical settings are often the first, and sometimes only, consistent points of contact for many families experiencing domestic violence. Foundational and ongoing training is needed for medical professionals to best identify signs of domestic violence, provide trauma-informed medical care to families experiencing violence, and refer families to supportive community resources.