

STATE SENATE DISTRICT 43 - CHARLESTON, BEAUFORT, COLLETON

EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

YES

Richard Hricik, Democratic

NO RESPONSE

Chip Campsen III, Republican

"Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a serious problem and South Carolina still ranks as the nation's sixth-worst, with a domestic violence homicide rate that is more than one-and-a-half times the national average. There continues to be insufficient victim services in many areas of the state; insufficient awareness about services in some places where they exist; insufficient attention statewide to a related problem, dating violence; and insufficient support for primary prevention education in our schools and communities. Attempts to gain insight into solutions frequently are hampered by inconsistent, unreliable data.

Victims, now more than ever, need to know what help is available and that there are safe places to go, such as My Sister's House in the tri-county area. Most victims are trapped by their abusers and COVID-19 exacerbated the problem during the lockdown. Their lives are often threatened if they try to leave, either by their abuser or now by the fear of contracting COVID-19. SC needs a PSA campaign in all media forms (print, tv, social media) to get information to the public about the resources available and access to shelters. It's hard for victims to get help if they don't know who to turn to. A PSA program, paid for with money from Covid relief funds and the State of SC, could be what some of these victims need to get help. Public information is essential!

Also, medical providers (and in some cases social workers) who are using tele-medecine now, must be reminded to screen for IPV as it is often disclosed in a face-to-face clinical setting. This also ties into the lack of broadband and internet access to places in SC creating even more isolation.

If we meaningfully and fully address COVID with widespread testing, we can create greater freedom and more safe places for victims." – R. Hricik

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SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

YES

Richard Hricik, Democratic

NO RESPONSE

Chip Campsen III, Republican

"The State does have the Advisory Committee that makes recommendations and issues its annual report that summarizes steps taken and steps that need to be taken on a wide range of issues relating to Domestic Violence (IPV):

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/SCCPC/2019%20SC%20Domestic%20Violence%20Advisory%20Committee%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

This last report was Pre-COVID but I would emphasize the previous answer and state economic independence is a critical factor in violence prevention. For many people who experience IPV, the financial entanglement with an abusive partner is too convoluted to sever without an alternative source of economic support. The pandemic has exacerbated financial entanglement by causing increased job loss and unemployment, particularly among women of color, immigrants, and workers without a college education.

Domestic and sexual violence crimes need to be punished through the criminal justice system, but punishment alone will often not stop the cycle of abuse. In addition, the abuse often stems from other issues such as mental health and substance use/abuse. Cases need to be evaluated individually as many abusers might also need mental health assistance and/or alcohol/drug treatment so that the core problem of the abuse is addressed. There are also many abusers who were victims themselves growing up and continue the cycle of abuse. This pattern of behavior needs to be recognized, treated and stopped. Expanding education to kids/people to recognize and report abuse when they see it or experience it is also an additional step." – R. Hricik

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INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

RESPONDED

Richard Hricik, Democratic

NO RESPONSE

Chip Campsen III, Republican

"Strategies to prevent IPV include teaching safe and healthy relationship skills; engaging influential adults and peers; disrupting the developmental pathways toward IPV; creating protective environments; strengthening economic supports for families; and supporting survivors to increase safety and lessen harms." – R. Hricik

SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

RESPONDED

Richard Hricik, Democratic

NO RESPONSE

Chip Campsen III, Republican

"State spending, especially on CARES Act relief money and general budgetary concerns are all a matter of priorities. The same career politicians who have failed to fully fund, implement and address the issues related to SC and IPV won't be the ones to make it a priority going forward." – R. Hricik