

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 01 – CHARLESTON, BEAUFORT, BERKELEY, COLLETON, DORCHESTER

EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

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

YES

Nancy Mace, Republican

NO RESPONSE

Joe Cunningham, Democratic

"I've always been an advocate for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. For me, this issue is personal. I was raped at the age of 16, and it took me 25 years to speak about this deeply traumatic and personal issue that so many women across our country face, for a lifetime. Reporting is already a difficult decision to make. Many women feel too ashamed or scared to report sexual abuse or domestic violence, and with COVID-19 keeping victims at home with their abusers it is not surprising that the incidents of domestic abuse and sexual abuse have gone up. In light of this horrific situation, it is incredibly important reporting is made more accessible. We also need to ensure our law enforcement has the funding they need to make the process quick, safe and more private for victims, while also increasing resources for victim advocates." – N. Mace

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

Nancy Mace, Republican

NO RESPONSE

Joe Cunningham, Democratic

"As a state lawmaker, this is an issue I have worked on. The criminal justice system is effective but shouldn't be the first line of defense. Increasing funding for both intense therapy programs for those offenders, while also increasing funding for victim advocates would be a good starting place for reducing repeat offences and getting much needed help to victims. At the state level, another provision I have authored includes legislation that would allow victims of domestic abuse to more easily get out of their leases or rental agreements when these offenses occur. We need to ensure we protect women who are victims of abuse understanding if they are unable to leave the home, it may be a life or death issue." – N. Mace

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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?

YES

Nancy Mace, Republican

NO RESPONSE

Joe Cunningham, Democratic

"The criminal justice system offers some preventative measures like restraining orders, but that prevention does not come soon enough. It is incredibly important that there is a focus on preventing domestic violence and sexual abuse, and that we properly fund those programs. Increasing education in schools -- how to identify victims, what the resources are and how to access them. We need to bring more awareness to emotional and mental abuse, as well. As a state lawmaker, I drafted legislation that would allow women to get out of their rental agreements or leases to a safe place when they are victims of domestic violence and abuse." – N. Mace

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?

YES

Nancy Mace, Republican

NO RESPONSE

Joe Cunningham, Democratic

"We need to make sure that Congress includes supplementary funding in their next stimulus bill. These public and private funds offer a major gateway for victims to find relief, and when the government all but mandates everyone to stay in their homes, it is more important now than ever before. As we slowly begin to open the country back up, it is increasingly evident that these cuts must be remedied." – N. Mace