

Protecting Confidentiality to Keep Victims Safe

While domestic violence shelters offer victims a safe and confidential location when they initially flee their abuser, victims of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking quickly find that maintaining the confidentiality of their new location becomes impossible when they begin the process of providing their new address to government agencies and other key service providers. The public availability of this information immediately exposes their new address or county of relocation to the perpetrator.

The Address Confidentiality Program will help ensure that victims can safely and confidentially relocate when fleeing an abusive and dangerous situation.

South Carolina would join over 40 other states that protect communications between a victim and victim assistance organizations.

About the Bill

S.147 would:

- Establish the address confidentiality program whereby victims may use a designated address rather than a residential address to conceal their place of residence from their abuser.
- Establish that non-profit victim assistance organizations have a duty to protect the confidentiality of victims and would strengthen awareness of, compliance with, and respect for the protection it affords to them in civil and criminal proceedings.
- Promote victim safety by protecting sensitive communications from disclosure, reducing fear that their personal information will be used against them or made available to the person who harmed them.
- Release of protected information may be compelled by statutory mandate or court order. The provisions of this bill would not prohibit reporting by individuals who are mandated reporters under Sections 43-35-25 or 63-7-310.

How Can You Stand With Survivors?

- **Contact your legislators** to encourage their support of S.147 and let them know why these protections are important for the safety of survivors.
- **Subscribe to SCCADVASA's newsletter** to receive the latest legislative updates.
- **Visit SCCADVASA's Policy Center** to learn more about legislation impacting the lives of survivors and victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.