



Coalition Expresses Disappointment in Failure of Economic Stability and Pay Equity Bills

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Baton Rouge, LA - On Tuesday, March 27th, the Louisiana Senate voted down three bills promoting pay equity, wage transparency, and a minimum wage increase. The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) is disappointed in the legislature's rejection of these commonsense measures that would have improved the economic security of all Louisianans, and especially survivors of domestic violence.

LCADV is the statewide coalition of programs, organizations, and individuals working to end domestic violence in Louisiana. Our member programs provided services to over 17,000 domestic violence victims and their children in 2017. Our network of domestic violence programs provide survivors of domestic violence with comprehensive services to meet their needs, including but not limited to emergency shelter, advocacy, support services, children's programming, and transitional housing. In addition to direct service provision, our coalition recognizes that domestic violence does not exist in a vacuum and cannot be eliminated in a vacuum. Efforts to end domestic violence must address both the short- and long-term needs of survivors. Survivors' economic stability is central to our efforts to end domestic violence and promote lives free from abuse.

Public policy that makes it difficult to earn a fair wage, encourages pay secrecy, and dismisses the fundamental importance of pay equity is detrimental to survivors' ability to maintain safety and stability. Limiting survivors' access to financial resources restricts their ability to seek safety and provides barriers to their long-term stability and independence.

Pay equity, pay transparency, and a living wage benefit all families, but are especially crucial for families in crisis who rely on the wages of a single earner. There is no way around it: survivor safety is directly linked to survivor economic security. While we are disappointed in the failure of these commonsense measures, it is our sincere hope that the Louisiana legislature will renew its commitment to the wellbeing of domestic violence survivors for the remainder of this legislative session.

About LCADV

Our Mission: The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) is a statewide network of programs, organizations, and individuals who share the goal of ending domestic violence in Louisiana. LCADV empowers its members and communities through advocacy, education, resource development, and technical assistance.

Our Vision: LCADV is dedicated to bringing about change in our institutions, laws, politics, attitudes, and beliefs which will allow individuals to live free of violence.