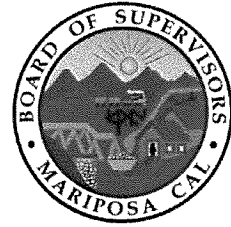




MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors • 209-966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2018-165

MEETING: April 17, 2018
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
RE: Sign-On Letter of Support for Additional Funding for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve the online submission of a Letter of Support for Funding to End Sexual and Domestic Violence; and Authorize the Clerk of the Board to Sign the Letter on Behalf of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors.

The attached letter is a copy of the letter that will be submitted online. A hard copy will not actually be printed, signed or mailed.

This action was requested by Audrey Davis/Mountain Crisis Services during the April 3, 2018, Board meeting. Additionally, while the letter requesting the sign-on notes a submission deadline of March 26, 2018, staff has been advised by Ms. Davis that the date has been extended.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has approved letters supporting legislation that will benefit the County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not approve the Sign-on letter. Individual members of the Board may write their own letters of support as desired.

ATTACHMENTS:

Letter requesting organizational sign-on support of funding to end sexual and domestic violence (PDF)

Letter in support of \$50 million to domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and comprehensive services (DOCX)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor

SECONDER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor

AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey

Organizational Sign-on Letter in Support of Funding to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

Dear supporters and colleagues,

Please join us in supporting a request for \$50 million in new state funding for sexual and domestic violence prevention and comprehensive services. With innovative approaches in prevention, accountability and comprehensive survivor support, California can take a bold step toward ending domestic and sexual violence. Please join us in this effort by adding your organization to this sign on letter today. The deadline to sign on is March 26th.

Background: State funding has not kept up with the burgeoning increase in demand for domestic and sexual violence services. Data collected from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, domestic violence crisis calls have increased by 45% over the last 6 years. Similarly, survivors of sexual violence face reduced services and waiting lists. According to a 2017 national survey by the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, more than half of sexual violence support programs have a waiting list for counseling services and more than one-third have a waiting list for trauma-informed therapy for life-changing supports. The new report, *Costs and Consequences of Sexual Violence in California*, found that in 2012 an estimated 948,000 California residents were sexually assaulted and estimated that every prevented rape of an adult could save up to \$163,800 and for every prevented rape or sexual assault of a child could save up to \$227,700.

Thank you for your continued support,

Signature

April 17, 2018

Governor Edmund G. Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

We, the undersigned organizations, call on Governor Brown and the Legislature to allocate an additional \$50 million to domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and comprehensive services.

The consequences of domestic and sexual violence are felt far beyond the immediate victim that include:

- a clear connection to poverty and homelessness for families
- the negative impact of incarceration on families and communities
- students and educators feeling unsafe in educational institutions
- a decrease in mental and physical health
- unsafe workplaces, schools, and other institutions

Domestic and sexual violence have an extensive and damaging reach in our state. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 5.78 million California women and men experience intimate partner violence each year. Compare that to the number of victims sheltered in California each year—an average of 18,485. Although programs in California supported 35,000 victims of sexual violence in 2016, the state is home to over a million survivors of sexual assault each year. In 2012 alone, an estimated 948,000 California residents were sexually assaulted, and given that some victims were assaulted repeatedly during the year, the total estimated incidents of sexual assault exceeded 1.1 million.

The State has not kept up with the burgeoning increase in demand for domestic and sexual violence services. A national one-day snapshot of domestic violence programs and services found that on just one day in 2016, while over 5,000 adults and children were served by domestic violence programs in California, 1,083 requests for services went unmet due to lack of resources. Over three quarters of those requests were for housing, showing just how much homelessness is intertwined with domestic violence. Data collected from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, domestic violence crisis calls have increased by 45% over the last 6 years. During that same time, California's general fund investment in domestic and sexual violence services has remained stagnant at \$20.6 million for domestic violence and a mere \$45,000 for sexual violence. Similarly, survivors of sexual violence face reduced services and waiting lists. According to a 2017 national survey by the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, more than half of sexual violence support programs have a waiting list for counseling services and more than one-third have a waiting list for trauma-informed therapy for life changing supports. The cost of sexual violence also reflects the need to invest in response and prevention programs. The new report, *Costs and Consequences of Sexual Violence in California*, found that in 2012 an estimated 948,000 California

residents were sexually assaulted and estimated that every prevented rape of an adult could save up to \$163,800 and for every prevented rape or sexual assault of a child could save up to \$227,700.

Survivors need more than the crisis intervention systems we've built and financed over the last 40 years. Survivors and families often cycle from one crisis to the next resulting in reduced community safety, health and cohesion. Families and communities have been asking for new investments in prevention and comprehensive services. We ask you to invest in California's domestic violence and sexual assault response with \$50 million in new general fund support to allow communities to:

1. Invest in community-based strategies to prevent domestic and sexual violence. By investing in community-based prevention efforts, we can stop this violence and abuse before it begins, and avoid these costs to survivors and the state. Prevention funding would also help create and nurture protective community elements that counteract violence, ultimately shifting harmful social norms. No less than 50% of this fund would be allocated to prevention efforts.
2. Offer comprehensive wrap-around survivor support, including but not limited to housing assistance and legal advocacy. Eligible services would include mobile advocacy (meeting survivors where they are to provide support); housing solutions; legal assistance; counseling (individual and group counseling; parent-child-family intervention); culturally responsive and culturally-specific approaches and coordinated community collaborations to strengthen systemic responses. No less than 40% of this fund would be allocated to comprehensive wrap-around services.
3. Research innovative approaches to effective family interventions, accountability alternatives to the criminal justice system; and culturally-responsive and culturally specific approaches. Not more than 10% of the fund would go to support this research.

Californians understand how critical this issue is: Nearly 9 out of 10 see domestic violence as a serious societal problem and 80% support increased government investments in prevention. And throughout the state, thousands of survivors of sexual violence are taking a stand through movements to prevent workplace sexual violence, acknowledging the pervasiveness of sexual violence, and saying #MeToo and #WeSaidEnough. Please listen to them, and fund the strategies necessary to turn the tide on domestic and sexual violence. With innovative approaches in prevention, accountability and comprehensive survivor support, California can take a bold step toward ending domestic and sexual violence.