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Teen Dating Abuse Prevention Bill Stalls; Advocates Will Continue Working for Safe Schools

Sacramento (June 1, 2012) – AB 1880, a teen dating violence prevention measure, has stalled in the Senate Appropriations Committee and will not be moving forward. The measure, by Assembly Member Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens), aimed at reducing dating abuse in middle and high schools by incorporating dating abuse policies into school safety plans and trainings offered to school districts.

Lara decided to author the bill following the tragic murder, on school grounds, of teenager Cindi Santana in September of last year. Santana was stabbed to death by her ex-boyfriend on the campus of South East High school in Southgate, Calif. The Los Angeles Unified School District has since passed a resolution to include dating violence prevention education in school trainings; AB 1880 would have supported similar strategies statewide.

The California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (the Partnership), the statewide domestic violence coalition, sponsored the legislation. Partnership executive director Tara Shabazz is disappointed to see the measure fail. “Teen dating violence is a major issue in our schools,” she said. “AB 1880 would have given educators the tools they need to make campuses safer for everyone. While we’re disappointed that the bill won’t move forward, our work with legislators this year has raised awareness and educated policymakers on this crucial issue.”

In addition to education programs, AB 1880 would have ensured that school officials were informed about dating abuse and had procedures in place to prevent, recognize, intervene and respond. It also would have provided teen victims with more readily available resources. The Partnership urges state lawmakers to remember the life-threatening consequences of teen dating abuse when they consider future legislation.

About the Partnership

The California Partnership to End Domestic Violence is California’s statewide domestic violence coalition, with organizational and individual members across California. Working at the local,

state and national levels for nearly 30 years, the Partnership has a long track record of successfully passing over 100 pieces of legislation on behalf of domestic violence victims and their children. As the unified voice for California's domestic violence agencies, the Partnership works to inspire, inform and connect all those concerned with this issue, because together we're stronger. With offices in Sacramento, the Partnership's member programs span the entire state.

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