



Media Advisory:

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Groundbreaking Bill Passes Labor Relations Committee; California Lagging Behind in Domestic Violence Workplace Protections

Sacramento, April 10, 2013 —Today, Senate Bill 400 (Jackson) passed the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee, the first step in establishing more reliable workplace protections for California's domestic violence survivors. SB 400 would protect the employment of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking by ensuring that employers make appropriate workplace accommodations for victims, and that people experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking are not terminated for disclosing their victim status.

Several other states—New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Hawaii, Illinois and Connecticut—have already passed similar laws. SB 400 is co-sponsored by the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (the Partnership) and the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center (LAS-ELC). Partnership executive director Tara Shabazz says that it's time for California to recognize this important emerging policy issue.

“California must do more to protect victims' rights and safety at work,” Shabazz said. “It is critical that victims be able to let employers know if they feel they are in danger, and managers need to be aware of potential security risks to employees in their charge. SB 400 will make the workplace safer for everyone.”

Rachael Langston, Staff Attorney at LAS-ELC, agreed, stating: “This legislation is essential for ensuring the safety of all employees in the workplace and for protecting the economic security of survivors of abuse. Without the means to support themselves and their children, survivors often feel they have no choice but to remain in a violent relationship.”

The Partnership and the LAS-ELC urge California lawmakers to pass SB 400, and thank Senator Jackson for her leadership in taking on this critical issue.

About the Partnership

The California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (the Partnership) is California’s statewide domestic violence coalition, with organizational and individual members across the state. 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. The Partnership believes that by sharing expertise, advocates and legislators can end domestic violence. Every day we 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

About the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center | www.las-elc.org

Founded in 1916, the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center protects the rights and economic self-sufficiency of working poor people by providing free legal services, education, and advocacy. LAS-ELC’s Project SURVIVE works to ensure that people who experience domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking can maintain their economic security while obtaining safety, medical, or legal help.

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