

PROVIDING WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Submit written testimony to the committee if you cannot join live. Use your organization's letterhead. Address the chair and members of the committee and state your name, position, and organization. Example:

*Senator Melanie Scheible, Chair
Members, Senate Judiciary Committee
Nevada State Legislature
Carson City, Nevada*

Chairwoman Scheible and Members of the Committee,

My name is Serena Evans; I am the Policy Specialist for the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence. I am submitting my written letter of support so SB177.

Provide reasoning and examples for why you support SB177. Submit written letter to SenJUD@sen.state.nv.us.

KEY POINTS:

- The proposed \$25 increase to the marriage license fee will secure a much-needed increase in the only state funding for domestic violence programs. It will also create the first ever funding to be distributed statewide for sexual violence programs
- Without this funding, advocacy programs will not be able to expand their lifesaving services, which include: shelter; advocacy with law enforcement, hospitals, and the courts; trauma recovery support groups and more.
- Over the past five years, there has been a steady increase in the reported rapes and domestic violence offenses to law enforcement in Nevada.
 - From 2017 to 2018, law enforcement saw a 24.34% increase in the number of reported rapes.
 - From the years 2015 to 2017, there was ~1.5% increase each year in the number of reported domestic violence cases.

We know that for every reported number to law enforcement there are a handful of victim-survivors not reporting but seeking the lifesaving services of advocacy organizations.