

**Media Advisory**  
**40th Anniversary Of Marriage License Funds Being Allocated**  
**To Prevent Domestic Violence**

**WHO:** The Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDSV)

**WHAT:** 40 years ago SB 371 established a surcharge on every marriage license sold in the state of Nevada to fund services for victims of domestic violence and to provide funding in Clark County for services to victims of sexual assault. SB 177 from the 2021 Legislature will increase that surcharge to provide a much needed increase in funding for domestic violence services **and** statewide funding for sexual violence services.

**WHEN:** Hearing will take place on **Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 1 p.m.**

**WHERE:** Senate Judiciary Committee

**WHY:** A percentage of every marriage license sold goes to a fund to provide grants for domestic violence organizations across the state, helping to provide resources and advocacy for domestic violence survivors. Over the past 40 years the result has been a growth in services and programs to meet the ever increasing number of victim-survivors and their children. In 1981 marriage license funding was only extended to sexual assault services in Clark County, leaving the rest of the state without base funding for sexual violence services. The result is very limited sexual violence services outside of Clark County.

“In 1981, Senator Sue Wagner rallied allies to creating a reliable funding stream to combat the effects of domestic violence and support its victims,” said State Senator Julia Ratti, “They found, thanks to the success of Nevada's hospitality industry, that a fee on marriage licenses sold would be a positive and productive way to fund these essential services. Nevada's population has continued to explode, as have, sadly, crimes of domestic and sexual violence. This year, we are asking the Nevada Legislature to extend that small but reliable funding stream to sexual violence service providers as well. It's time; the need is huge. “

“Forty years ago, we established statewide funding for domestic violence services, yet over that whole period a need has existed to assist survivors in recovering from the trauma of sexual assault.” said Sue Meuschke, Executive Director of NCEDSV. “Now, forty years later we will extend the support provided by marriage license funding to sexual violence services.”

**About NCEDSV**

*The Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (previously The Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence), is the statewide coalition of domestic and sexual violence programs. NCEDSV provides statewide advocacy, education and support to the front-line organizations that help those impacted by domestic and sexual violence. To learn more about services provided by NCEDSV, visit [ncedsv.org](http://ncedsv.org).*