

Dear Senator XX (or Dear Assembly Member XX),

I am writing to ask you to advocate to restore member item funding for agencies in New York State to train and support their employees to serve domestic violence victims of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) communities.

For the past three years the Assembly has provided \$375,000 for the Statewide LGBT Domestic Violence Network Fund to 13 agencies from Buffalo to Brooklyn with a small grant to establish a formal LGBT domestic violence program in each organization. In addition, the grant provides funds for the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project (AVP) to provide technical assistance to these agencies in program development and management. AVP also receives more than \$250,000 in LGBT-HHS member item funding to prevent and respond to violence experienced by LGBT and HIV-affected people. **Without this funding, many LGBT survivors of violence will have nowhere to turn for sensitive, safe violence response and prevention services.** This is particularly concerning in rural areas of New York State, where there may be no other agencies providing appropriate services for LGBT violence victims.

Today I ask that you help restore the Assembly LGBT DV Network member item funding and the Senate and Assembly LGBT-HHS member item funding. Without this critical funding thousands of LGBT and HIV-affected survivors of violence will go without life-saving services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Your Name

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