

18TH DISTRICT

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**Senate of Pennsylvania**

November 1, 2017

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Senator Stewart Greenleaf, Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
Room 19 East Wing  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senator Greenleaf:

I write to you today as a member of the Judiciary Committee and an advocate for combating domestic violence in our Commonwealth, and respectfully ask for your consideration of a package of legislation that addresses domestic violence issues. These bills - Senate Bills 312, 313, and 314 - seek to provide firmer consequences for violent offenders, as well as support mechanisms for victims of domestic violence. A hearing by your committee would provide a beneficial opportunity to discuss this importunate and ever challenging issue.

Each bill in the package has a targeted, measured approach to deterring this persisting problem within our communities. Senate Bill 312 allows the Commission on Sentencing to provide a sentence enhancement when a crime is committed and the defendant is in violation of a protection order or consent decree. Senate Bill 313 provides for relief in instances where an offender and a victim are in a shared telephone-plan contract. Lastly, Senate Bill 314 establishes a new registry process for violent offenders as well as a state-wide board specializing in behavior and treatment.

In my Senatorial district, I work closely with the Beginning Over Foundation of the Lehigh Valley, whose mission is to educate the public and advocate for better policies of preventing domestic violence. They have lent their support to this bill package, in honor and memory of Ms. Robin Shaffer, a Quakertown women who was tragically murdered by her estranged husband 13 years ago.

This past month marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary for nationally recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I urge you to support the victims, advocates, and the voiceless in this plight, and kindly request a hearing on this important matter by the Senate Judiciary Committee. I thank you in advance for your consideration of my request, and ask you to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Lisa Boscola  
State Senator  
18<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

LMB/jjl

CC: Senator Daylin Leach, Democratic Chair