



Junior Leagues of New York State:

Junior League of Binghamton
31 Front Street - Binghamton 13905

Junior League of Bronxville
P.O. Box 430 - Bronxville 10708

Junior League of Brooklyn
55 Pierrepont Street - Brooklyn 11201

Junior League of Buffalo
45 Elmwood Avenue - Buffalo 14201

Junior League of Central Westchester
1039 Post Road - Scarsdale 10583

Junior League of Elmira-Corning
P.O. Box 3150 - Elmira 14905

Junior League of Kingston
P.O. Box 1214 - Kingston 12402

Junior League of Long Island
1395 Old Northern Blvd - Roslyn 11576

Junior League of the City of New York
130 East 80th Street - New York 10021

Junior League of Northern Westchester
222 East Main Street - Mt. Kisco 10549

Junior League of Orange County
P.O. Box 515 - Middletown 10940

Junior League of Pelham
901 Pelhamdale Avenue - Pelham
Manor 10803

Junior League of Poughkeepsie
794 Main Street - Poughkeepsie 12603

Junior League of Rochester
110 Linden Oaks, Suite A - Rochester 14625

Junior League of Schenectady
P.O. Box 857 - Schenectady 12301

Junior League of Syracuse
930 James Street - Syracuse 13203

Junior League of Troy
P.O. Box 1161 - Troy 12180

Junior League of Westchester on Hudson
35 South Broadway - Tarrytown 10591

Junior League of Westchester on the Sound
149 Larchmont Avenue - Larchmont 10538

For more information, contact
the Junior League nearest you.

PROVIDE FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER SERVICES FOR ALL VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Bill: A.10228/S.7185

Sponsor: Assembly Member Paulin, Senator Saland

NYSPAC Position: SUPPORT

The New York State Public Affairs Committee (NYSPAC) of the Junior League urges New York State Assembly and Senate members to support the passage of legislation A10228, a bill to amend the social services law to permit all victims of human trafficking and domestic violence, including non-qualified aliens, to be eligible for emergency domestic violence residential services while at the same time ensuring that the service providers are reimbursed by the State.

Last year, New York State passed landmark legislation cracking down on human trafficking and providing services to its victims. The State's domestic violence shelters are well-positioned to serve these extremely vulnerable and needy populations. Existing law, however, is flawed in that it does not fully provide for the reimbursement of such services to service providers.

Current state and federal law prohibit state per-diem reimbursement to domestic violence agencies that provide emergency shelter to undocumented victims (including, in particular, illegal aliens). The very nature of human trafficking, however, means that the majority of its victims are in the country illegally. At the same time, domestic violence shelters are contractually bound to provide housing and services to these victims. As a result of this conflict, those shelters that are willing to provide services to victims of human trafficking face a loss in revenue and, accordingly, a degradation of the services they can provide.

The same issues arise with respect to undocumented domestic violence victims who are not victims of human trafficking. Any domestic violence victims who are turned away by shelters will cause the State to incur costs when they seek services from other public agencies, such as emergency rooms, the police, the district attorney and the court system. Shelters that accept domestic violence victims regardless of documentation incur un-reimbursed costs that put a huge strain on their resources.

Domestic violence shelters, when faced with this financial strain, must turn to the counties to help defray the costs. When the counties assume the full financial responsibility of reimbursement, the burden is placed on local property owners. It is crucial for the State to fund the necessary life-saving work that these shelters do for their communities, rather than requiring the already overtaxed local property owners to take on an additional financial burden.

Amending the social services law to include reimbursement of services provided to all victims of human trafficking or domestic violence, including non-qualified aliens, will enable those victims to receive the services they need while at the same time guaranteeing that the shelters will receive fair reimbursement for those services.

On behalf of the more than 7,000 women represented by the 19 Junior Leagues of New York, we urge the New York Assembly and Senate to enact A.10228.

For more information, please contact Brigid Brennan: mch777@msn.com.