



## 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 80<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES AGAINST VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE WITH REGARD TO HOUSING**

*Bill: A.05916 / S.3072*

*Sponsor: Assemblywoman Destito; Senator Robach*

### ***NYSPAC Position: SUPPORT***

Domestic violence increases the risk of homelessness in families. Of the 24 cities surveyed by the 2005 U.S. Conference of Mayors, 50% of them **identified domestic violence as a primary cause of homelessness**. A comprehensive study from 2005 cited by National Coalition for the Homeless found that **“one out of every four homeless women is homeless because of violence committed against her.”**

Although homelessness can occur for a number of reasons, these statistics make clear that domestic violence is a dominant factor. What do families fleeing an abuser need? More than almost anything, they require a place to live to allow them to stabilize their lives, and those of their children. They need an address to keep their jobs and keep their kids in school.

*The law of New York State currently offers no protection against housing discrimination for these very vulnerable members of our society.*

In a 1999 study conducted by the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, **67% of domestic violence service providers cited housing discrimination as a barrier to battered women seeking alternative housing**. Without adequate housing victims of domestic violence may be forced to return to their abusers.

A Formal Opinion offered by the AG (85-F15) stated that barring rentals to domestic violence victims would have a disproportionate impact on women and is not justified by a business necessity. **Property owners already have access to a wealth of non-discriminatory rules to protect against damage to persons or property.**

This legislation would amend Executive Law § 296 (Human Rights Law) to add domestic violence victim status as a protected class, membership in which may not serve as a basis for denying the right to purchase, rent, lease, or inhabit housing accommodations.

**Victims of domestic violence need protection, not discrimination.** This bill poses no financial burden to the State of New York.

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.05916 / S.3072 to stop the cycle of housing discrimination against victims of domestic abuse.

For more information, please contact Julia Steinmetz:

[jlsteinmetz@mindspring.com](mailto:jlsteinmetz@mindspring.com).

