



NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF
THE JUNIOR LEAGUE

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 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: S.4112-B

Sponsors: Senator Spano

NYSPAC Position: SUPPORT

Homelessness among domestic violence victims is a significant problem that can prevent such victims from stabilizing their lives, and the lives of their children and other dependents. While homelessness can result from a number of factors, in a 1999 publication the United States Conference of Mayors **identified domestic violence as a significant cause of homelessness.**

Victims of domestic violence who cannot find a place to live may be forced to return to their abusers. In a 1999 study conducted by the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, **67 % of domestic violence service providers sited housing discrimination as a barrier to battered women seeking alternative housing.**

In 1985, the Office of the Attorney General issued a Formal Opinion (85-F15) stating 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.

We were encouraged by the recent passage of A.6282-B. There has also been broad support for this bill when it was in the Senate Government Operations committee in other sessions. **However, in order for the bill to pass, it needs to come to a vote on the Senate floor.** This legislation would amend Executive Law § 296 (the Human Rights Law) to add domestic violence victim status to the list of factors that may not serve as a basis for denying an individual the right to purchase, rent, lease, or inhabit housing accommodations.

Passage of S.4112-B would stop the cycle of housing discrimination against victims of violence and would further ensure that victims and property owners have clear notice of their legally binding rights and responsibilities. Victims of domestic violence should be protected, not punished, for having been subjected to the trauma of abuse. This bill poses no financial burden to the State of New York.

On behalf of the over 7,000 women represented by the 19 Junior Leagues of New York, we urge the New York Assembly and Senate to support legislation to stop the cycle of housing discrimination against victims of domestic abuse.

For more information, contact: Julia Steinmetz at
jlsteinmetz@mindspring.com

