



**From The Desk Of
SENATOR GINNY BURDICK**

Support HB 2758A

The above organizations respectfully urge your support of House Bill 2758A, which would provide important privacy protections for sensitive health care information. This protection is particularly important for victims of domestic and sexual violence, who have safety concerns in addition to privacy concerns.

- Domestic and sexual violence seriously endanger the lives, safety, health, and dignity of all victims. Victims and their children suffer great psychological, emotional, and physical trauma, which have long term impact on their lives.
- Confidentiality and privacy for victims of domestic or sexual violence seeking services and care are critical to effective treatment and recovery.
- Sharing information without a victim's permission directly threatens his or her safety, autonomy, and confidence in treatment services.
- In domestic or sexual violence situations, the disclosure of sensitive information could lead to threats or retaliation against the victim.
- Without assurances of confidentiality, victims may not seek treatment, or may not disclose the true nature of their medical needs, thus compromising the efficacy of services.
- It is critical that survivors access medical care without fear of reprisal by their abusers.

HB 2758A will allow patients to redirect their sensitive health information and will ensure greater access to care for victims with safety concerns. For these reasons, we respectfully urge your support.