

Submitter: Kaitlin Strathdee
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1070

I'm writing on behalf of the women in my life who have bravely shared their DV stories. I work for a Fortune 500 company and in one year, I learned that three of my highly successful, intelligent, sweet and strong colleagues were victims of emotional and physical abuse by their partners. At that time, one was currently being stalked and harassed by her fiancé who had beaten her and dragged her by her hair across the room. She was in between residences because she left their home to get away. He also worked with us and stalked and threatened her at work until he was terminated. My other coworker was in her 70s and still working after a long 30+ year career. Her abusive husband had not only escalated his violent behavior, he had used all of her retirement savings on drinking and gambling.

In my family, my grandmother was raised in a household of abuse and left home as soon as she could to escape the trauma inflicted by her step father. She married the first man she met who then beat her in their truck in a grocery store parking lot when she was in her 80s. She lived under his thumb during their entire marriage. Her mother was not even that fortunate. On multiple occasions they picked her up from her husband when the beatings became so bad. He ran her over and burned her body with cigarettes. She finally moved in with my grandmother. Both of these women are part of me and raised me. And I can't help but wonder what would have happened to my mom and her three brothers if they had fought back and stopped the violence when it began. Women are not weak. But we are also not protected. Some Tweet once said, women marry their only known natural predator. It's terrifying and true. My husband is amazing and kind. But I dated two men who stalked me. One who tried repeatedly to get me alone on a hike with manipulative catfishing techniques. Who called my phone with four different numbers and created multiple profiles. He stalked me months after our one date. If DV is this prevalent in my life, I can imagine it is just as ubiquitous in yours. You have the power to protect women. You have the power to help them and save their family systems from generational trauma. PLEASE vote yes and support this bill.