

# LA REGIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE

July 2019

## JOIN THE COMMITTEE

For more information on local, state and federal policy issues, we invite you to participate in our monthly committee meetings (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month).

### Next meeting:

July 18, 2019

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Legal Aid Foundation of LA  
1546 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

## PROTECTION FROM CIVIL ARREST BY ICE IN STATE COURTS

Increased immigration enforcement has made immigrants and their family members fearful of going to public places, including local courthouses. In fact, reports of ICE officer presence at local courts have caused many domestic violence survivors to avoid going to court to obtain much-needed legal protection because they are afraid of being detained or arrested by ICE. Most ICE arrests are for civil violations of federal immigration law.

Assembly Bill 668 (Gonzalez) prohibits the civil arrest in a courthouse of anyone who is attending a court proceeding or handling a legal matter. The bill sets forth the powers of judges to prevent activities that threaten access to courthouses and includes declarations regarding the importance of keeping courts open, accessible and free from interruption. The bill does not prevent a law enforcement officer from making a criminal arrest at a courthouse. The bill passed the Assembly and will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 12, 2019.

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*For more information on the state legislation listed here, visit [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov)*

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## INCREASED ACCESS TO DV AND DATING VIOLENCE INFORMATION FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

According to the California Women's Health Survey, 40% of California women experience some form of physical intimate partner violence, with college-aged women being 11% more likely to experience forms of intimate partner violence. Other studies have shown that college-aged women (between the ages of 16-24) have the highest per capita rate of intimate

partner violence, with 21% reporting experiencing dating violence by a current partner and 32% reporting experiencing dating violence by a former partner.

While existing law requires new college student orientations to include information about intimate partner and dating violence, the type of information provided on these topics can vary widely among schools. Assembly Bill 381 (Reyes) specifies that student orientations must include the following information relating to intimate partner and dating violence: warning signs, campus policies and resources, off-campus resources, and prevention/bystander intervention. The bill passed the Assembly and the Senate and is currently on the Governor's desk.





## **STUDENT ID CARDS & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT HOTLINES**

Existing law requires public and private schools with grades 7 through 12 to print the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline on student identification cards. Assembly Bill 624 (Gabriel) requires these schools to also include the National Domestic Violence Hotline and National Sexual Assault Hotline on student identification cards, starting July 1, 2020. Public schools with grades 7 through 12 would additionally be required to include a sexual or reproductive health hotline. The bill passed the Assembly and will be voted on by the Senate.

## **NEW OFFICE OF SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

Assembly Bill 656 (Garcia) creates an Office of Safe and Healthy Communities (OSHC) under the direction of the State Department of Public Health to provide a comprehensive violence prevention strategy and expand access to community-based programs for Californians at risk of involvement in violence. The stated goal of the bill is to address community violence as a public health issue and establish prevention-oriented, evidence-based solutions to addressing violence in all its forms. The bill requires the director of the OSHC to assemble an advisory committee and specifies who may sit on the committee. The bill passed the Assembly and will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 12, 2019.

### **Contact Us**

#### **LA Regional Policy Committee Co-Chairs**

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## **UPDATES ON PAST LEGISLATION & POLICY ISSUES**

### **Senate Bill 144 (Mitchell/Hertzberg): Potential Elimination of Funding for Local DV Programs**

SB 144 eliminates various criminal fees, including mandatory fees imposed on individuals convicted of, and placed on probation for, a domestic violence offense. A portion of these criminal DV fees are used to fund local domestic violence programs. The California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (CPEDV) and advocates across the state are concerned about the impact this bill would have on local resources for survivors should the bill pass in its current form. The bill is now a two-year bill, which means that it will not move forward this year and will be taken up again in the next legislative session.

### **Assembly Bill 917 (Reyes): Reduced Timeline for Processing U Visa & T Visa Law Enforcement Certification Requests**

The U Visa and T Visa are forms of immigration relief that are governed by federal law. However, state law (Penal Code §679.10) sets forth how Certifying Officials from state and local law enforcement agencies determine whether a victim cooperated with the investigation or prosecution of a qualifying crime and the timeline within which certification requests must be processed. Currently, Certifying Officials must process certification requests within 90 days of the request and within 14 days of the request if the person is in removal proceedings. Assembly Bill 917 (Reyes) reduces the timeline for processing certification requests to within 30 days of the request or, if the person is in removal proceedings, within 7 days of the first business day after the request was received. The bill passed the Assembly and is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee's suspense file. The bill must be voted out of the suspense file after the legislature reconvenes in August in order to move forward.