



**Archuleta County
Victim Assistance Program**

February 14, 2017

Written Testimony in Opposition of SB17-054

The Domestic Violence Program has invested in our agency for over 17 years, growing us from a one-person entity to a troop of six strong leading the fight against domestic violence in rural southwest Colorado. Singlehandedly, DVP ensured I, as a lone director and staff, was given the resources and stability necessary to ensure my organization's success. We have now celebrated our 20-year anniversary and I can honestly attribute this to a very small few, one being DVP.

To tell you the Domestic Violence Program is vital is an understatement. From feeding to sheltering, intervening to relocating, the Domestic Violence Program consistently provides victims with the means to get what they need in their time of crisis and beyond. DVP specifically funds our agency to respond on-scene at the time of an abusive incident, providing immediate help with food, shelter, transportation and of course, emotional support for victims and their children. DVP then allows us to continue our work in the aftermath of their trauma to help each rebuild their lives in a more stable, safe way.

Beyond the crisis, DVP is one of few funding sources that supports violence prevention efforts. Working with our youth to create the social change we seek is truly the only way we will end domestic violence once and for all. To provide youth the tools to more effectively keep themselves and their fellow peers safe is paramount and one avenue that DVP recognizes as essential to achieve safer Colorado communities.

The Domestic Violence Program truly invests in it's agencies – investments that have seen tremendous growth and success in ending domestic violence in Colorado. Agencies such as mine are at a critical stage of change, we are at a monumental tipping point that will launch us into the next realm that I believe will be the final stage that ends domestic violence. To decrease funding now would undercut all the work accomplished to this point. A continued investment in allowing DVP to see this work through is absolutely, indisputably imperative to continue our momentum. Please continue the tax check off for the Domestic Violence Program.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carmen Hubbs", written in black ink.

Carmen Hubbs
Executive Director