



DEBRA BOWEN

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Contact: Nicole Winger
(916) 653-6575

Secretary of State Bowen Marks 10-Year Anniversary of Safe at Home Program, Calls Attention to Domestic Violence

SACRAMENTO – On the eve of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Secretary of State Debra Bowen today highlighted the 10-year anniversary of the Safe at Home program.

Safe at Home is a confidential address program that offers mail forwarding, voter registration, school records suppression and other services to many victims of abuse, stalking and sexual assault, as well as reproductive health care staff, volunteers and patients.

“Since its inception in 1999, Safe at Home has helped more than 4,800 survivors start new lives free from fear,” said Secretary Bowen. “Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a time to reinforce the commitment to ending violence, and to support important programs like Safe at Home that help protect victims. Whether through government-sponsored prevention efforts or nonprofit agencies working one-on-one, everyone must commit to preventing domestic violence and bringing hope and healing to those affected by it.”

Domestic violence is the most common cause of injury to American women between the ages of 15 and 44. It takes many forms, from physical and mental abuse to verbal threats and controlling behavior, and it occurs in every ethnic, racial, national origin, gender, socioeconomic, age, sexual orientation and religious group. Besides the human toll it takes, domestic violence also strains the health and welfare systems, and is a leading contributor to homelessness.

In protecting the identities of Safe at Home participants, the Secretary of State’s office works with more than 225 enrolling agencies including district attorneys’ offices, health clinics and women’s shelters. Currently, approximately 2,400 Californians are enrolled in Safe at Home, 97% of whom are women and children.

Thirty-three states have confidential mail-forwarding programs; California’s Safe at Home is widely considered to be the national model.

For more information about Safe at Home and a county-by-county list of enrolling agencies, visit www.sos.ca.gov/safeathome.

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