



WASHTENAW COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF Temporary/Emergency Assistance Fund for Domestic Violence Survivors

Passed by the WCDP General Membership on April 25, 2022

WHEREAS, domestic violence may consist of physical, mental, verbal, financial, sexual, and/or litigation abuse designed to create a system of power and control over the victim, *and*

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a chronic and worsening public health crisis, harming millions people every year, and costing billions of dollars in physical and mental health care, property damage, lost wages, incarceration, and court expenses, *and*

WHEREAS, domestic violence is the leading cause of injury and homicide in women in the United States, and trends suggest that at least 2,300 U.S. women will be murdered by their intimate partners in 2022, *and*

WHEREAS, children who witness domestic violence are at grave risk for a variety of severe lifelong negative outcomes including depression, suicidality, substance abuse, cardiovascular disease, and anxiety and other mental health disorders, and are at a much higher risk of becoming abusive or victims of abuse themselves, *and*

WHEREAS, over 1,700 instances of domestic violence were reported in Washtenaw County in 2021, a figure that excludes Ypsilanti Township misdemeanors, known to exceed 500 in that same period, *and*

WHEREAS, financial abuse is a form of emotional abuse in which an abuser's absolute control of the couple's finances leave survivors helpless and fearful of hunger and homelessness for themselves and any dependents if they try to leave the abuser, *and*

WHEREAS, survivors in Washtenaw County were at great risk when SafeHouse Center could not be used, and were temporarily benefitted by emergency funds provided by the County to provide direct financial assistance to survivors¹, funds which are no longer easily accessible, *and*

WHEREAS, across the United States multiple local and state governments have opted to provide, on a permanent basis, support for survivors in the form of temporary financial relief with direct cash assistance to secure resources that may otherwise not be available to survivors with negligible disposable income,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Washtenaw County Democratic Party calls on county and state legislators and policymakers to fund and implement a permanent emergency assistance fund to provide survivors with temporary flexible direct cash assistance to help them relocate into safe shelter, pay bills, purchase food, clothing, and transportation, and secure other items necessary to establish safety and security away from their abuser.

¹<https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2021/10/county-fast-tracks-75k-in-aid-to-domestic-violence-survivors-turned-away-from-ann-arbor-shelter.html>