



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.

Addabbo joins with Senate colleagues to increase protections and support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault

Sen. Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.

May 22, 2019

ISSUE:

- [Domestic Violence](#)
- [Sexual Assault](#)
- [Sexual Assault Survivors](#)
- [Addabbo](#)

To ensure that survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault receive stronger protections against further harm, NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. recently voted to approve an eight-bill package of legislation designed to institute new safeguards for crime victims and assist them in seeking justice against their abusers.

“Survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and other devastating crimes need and deserve our support to move forward in their lives, protect themselves from

further abuse, and seek justice against those who have hurt them,” said Addabbo, a member of the Senate Committee on Children and Families. “This package of bills, including legislation I co-sponsored to punish those who coerce victims into producing or disseminating intimate images of themselves, sends a strong message that New York State stands with survivors during every step and every stage of their difficult journeys.”

The eight pieces of legislation to aid survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault are as follows:

S.4355 expands the offense of coercion in the second degree to punish those who force others to produce or disseminate intimate images of themselves, and makes these offenders subject to inclusion on New York’s Sex Offender Registry. In addition to paying potential fines, these criminals would serve up to one year in prison, or be sentenced to up to three years of probation.

S.4657, generally known as the “Right to Call 911 Bill,” establishes the right of tenants to call police or emergency assistance at any time, and multiple times, without fear of losing their housing. Right now, when numerous calls are made from the same residence for emergency services to respond to domestic violence or other criminal complaints, landlords may choose to evict victims under local “nuisance ordinances” – further endangering those who are already in peril.

S.2416 extends the statute of limitations from one to two years to give victims more time to bring civil lawsuits against their abusers for injuries they sustained as a result of domestic violence.

S.2224 provides that professional advocates for domestic violence survivors are not required to disclose their private communications with their clients unless the victim authorizes the action, or it is otherwise required by existing law – as in cases where the communications include the victim’s intent to commit a crime or other harmful act. This important confidentiality privilege already exists for rape crisis counselors.

S.2356 allows domestic violence victims to cancel telephone and certain other telecommunications service contracts without penalty when there is a permanent order of protection in place. This will help survivors escape from violent circumstances without suffering an ongoing financial burden or continued contact with their abusers.

S.257 enables victims of sexual violence to file petitions in State Supreme Court to have their voter registration records, which contain addresses and other personal information, sealed from public access.

S.615 protects victims of domestic violence from possible contact with their abusers at election time by providing them with special absentee ballots, upon request, to cast by mail or in person at their county board of elections office.

S.1868 seeks to improve the effectiveness of domestic violence orders of protection by enabling victims to seek and fully recover non-economic damages, such as pain and suffering, from those found liable of failing to obey or enforce these vital legal safeguards for survivors.

“I am hopeful that all of these proposals will ultimately be approved by both the Senate and the Assembly, and then signed into law by the Governor,” said Addabbo. “Our domestic violence and sexual assault survivors need and deserve our help.”

related legislation

[2019-S4355](#)

-
- Introduced
 - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
 - - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
 - - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
 - Delivered to Governor
 - Signed By Governor
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[Relates to installing Lyme and tick-borne disease warning signs at all state-managed parks](#)

March 08, 2019

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by [Susan Serino](#)

Do you support this bill?

2019-S4657

-
- Introduced
 - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
 - - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
 - - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
 - Delivered to Governor
 - Signed By Governor
 -

[Establishes the right of tenants to call police or emergency assistance without fear of losing their housing](#)

March 19, 2019

Senate Floor Calendar

Sponsored by [Brad Hoylman-Sigal](#)

Do you support this bill?

2019-S2416

[Domestic Violence](#), [Women's Issues](#), [Domestic Violence Survivor](#), [Statute of Limitations](#), [Survivor Support](#)

- Introduced
 - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor

[Establishes a time period in which an action to recover damages for injury arising from domestic violence must be brought](#)

January 24, 2019

Senate Floor Calendar

Sponsored by [Anna M. Kaplan](#)

Do you support this bill?

[**2019-S2224**](#)

-
- Introduced
 - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
 - - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
 - - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
 - Delivered to Governor
 - Signed By Governor

[Establishes that domestic violence advocates may not disclose any communication made by a client to the advocate except in certain circumstances](#)

January 23, 2019

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by [James Sanders Jr.](#)

Do you support this bill?

2019-S2356

-
- Introduced
 - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
 - - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
 - - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
 - Delivered to Governor
 - Signed By Governor
 -

[Requires companies to allow victims of domestic violence to cancel contracts when there is a domestic violence incident report, a police report, an order of protection or a signed affidavit](#)

January 24, 2019

Senate Floor Calendar

Sponsored by [Kevin S. Parker](#)

Do you support this bill?

2019-S257

-
- Introduced
 - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
 - - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
 - - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
 - Delivered to Governor
 - Signed By Governor

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[Relates to authorizing registration records of victims of sexual violence to be kept confidential in certain cases](#)

January 02, 2019

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by [Timothy M. Kennedy](#)

Do you support this bill?

[2019-S615](#)

-
- Introduced
 - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
 - - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
 - - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
 - Delivered to Governor
 - Signed By Governor
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[Relates to tuition assistance program award determinations for certain institutions and schools](#)

January 07, 2019

In Senate Committee [Higher Education](#)

Sponsored by [Phil Boyle](#)

Do you support this bill?

[2019-S1868](#)

-
- Introduced
 - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
 - ◦ On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
 - ◦ Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
 - Delivered to Governor
 - Signed By Governor
 -

[Exempts parties liable for failure to obey or enforce domestic violence orders of protection or temporary orders of protection from limited liability provisions](#)

January 17, 2019

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by [Jamaal T. Bailey](#)

Do you support this bill?