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Subject: Revised - DV Funding Email to House

Attachments: [FY1617 Executive Budget Recommendation for prosecuting Domestic Violence....pdf](#)

Dear House Members,

Because our office has received several questions from members regarding the article in the *Post and Courier* about domestic violence funding, we wanted to provide everyone with more background information. Article: [House snubs Haley's plan to add more domestic violence prosecutors](#)

Last fall, the Domestic Violence Task Force issued [50 Recommendations](#), two of which related to additional funding for prosecutors to fix two systemic problems:

- First, the Task Force recommended **ending the practice of law enforcement officers prosecuting domestic violence cases** in magistrate and municipal courts – South Carolina is just **one of three states** to allow this practice, requiring police officers to spend time preparing for trial and try cases against defense attorneys.
- Second, the Task Force recommended **removing the disparity of caseloads between high-poverty and low-poverty areas and reducing backlogs** overall – South Carolina is 6th highest in the nation for violent crime with 42% of those crimes committed within domestic relationships.

Since then, our office worked with the Prosecution Coordination Commission to identify the cost of fixing these two systemic problems (see attached information sheet):

- \$2,988,923 for new prosecutors to absorb the domestic violence cases being prosecuted by law enforcement officers – Not yet funded in the House budget.
- \$7,826,875 for new prosecutors to reduce caseloads, decrease backlogs, and remove the high caseload disparity in high-poverty areas – Fully funded in the house budget.

We sincerely thank the House for fully funding the \$7.8 million and hope that the House will join the Task Force, Governor, and stakeholder groups against domestic violence to fully fund the \$2.9 million as well. Both efforts are crucial to bringing real change to how we prosecute domestic violence crimes. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Thank you,

Katherine