



Support Senate Bill 86 to Increase Safety for Victims of Domestic Violence

Senate Bill 86 authorizes law enforcement to arrest perpetrators of family violence on violations of stay-away orders in bond or probation conditions.

Senate Bill 86 will:

- **Increase victim safety** by allowing law enforcement to intervene immediately in those potentially lethal situations in which a perpetrator is released from jail or prison and—despite a judge’s order to stay away—heads straight back to the victim.

When a perpetrator disregards a court order and has contact with a victim, law enforcement should be empowered to take swift action to protect the victim and hold the perpetrator accountable.

- **Make family violence bond conditions and probation conditions more meaningful and enforceable.**

Currently, law enforcement is not authorized to arrest on non-violent violations of family violence-related conditions of bond or probation until a bond revocation or probation revocation is granted. This process can take up to several days during which time the victim may be in danger. This bill would allow for arrest immediately if the perpetrator violates the order.

- **Enhance the ability of the criminal justice system to hold stalkers accountable.**

Research indicates that family violence offenders who disregard court orders are especially dangerous. This bill promotes swift and consistent sanctions when perpetrators continue to harass and stalk their victims.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Allison Smith, GCADV Director of Public Policy, at (404) 209-0280, ext. 15 or asmith@gcadv.org.