



News Release

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Domestic Violence Reform Bill Signed Into Law *Attorney General Alan Wilson thanks Gov. Haley, Legislature*

(COLUMBIA, S.C.) Attorney General Alan Wilson released the following statement commending the hard work of the General Assembly on passing domestic violence reform and Gov. Nikki Haley for signing it into law today:

"I commend Gov. Haley for signing domestic violence reform into law.

"While the bill is not perfect and is not the last measure of domestic violence reform needed, it is a giant first step in combatting domestic violence. I look forward to working with Gov. Haley and members of the General Assembly in the future to take the additional steps necessary to further combat this heinous crime in South Carolina.

"This bill signing would not have been possible without the direct, personal involvement of Speaker Jay Lucas, House Judiciary Chairman Greg Delleney, Representatives Shannon Erickson and David Weeks, as well as Senate Judiciary Chairman Larry Martin, Senators Greg Hembree, Brad Hutto and Katrina Shealy, along with many others in both chambers.

"It also would not have been possible without the input of various stakeholders who have been on the front lines of the fight against domestic violence in South Carolina for years. This bill will give prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and victims' advocates additional tools necessary to curb domestic violence in the years to come.

"On Oct. 6, 2015, the Attorney General's Office will host the 18th Annual Silent Witness Ceremony to honor those who lost their lives to domestic violence during the previous year. My hope is that one day, this ceremony will have far fewer names read because of this bill, future bills, and various stakeholders who work tirelessly to change the culture of domestic violence in South Carolina."

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