



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PAM SLATER-PRICE
SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2012 JAN 20 PM 1 06

THOMAS J. PASTUSZKA
CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS

January 24, 2012

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: Support for AB 1522 - An act to amend Sections 782.5 and 4324 of the Family Code, relating to family law (Atkins) (District: AII)

SUMMARY:

The County of San Diego is determined to reduce the hardship and suffering caused by domestic violence and sexual abuse. County law enforcement officers and prosecutors strive to bring justice to victims; county social programs provide support and rehabilitation. Under existing law, however, victims of felony sex crimes continue to suffer when court orders require them to pay spousal support to their attackers.

That would change under AB 1522, wherein perpetrators of violent sex crimes would be ineligible to receive alimony from their victims after a divorce.

Authored by Assemblywoman Toni Atkins and introduced this month, AB 1522 would amend an existing law that waives alimony requirements for victims of attempted murder.

Victims of violent sex crimes suffer physical and emotional injury. In light of this suffering, it is unconscionable that victims must pay alimony, divide their property or share their pensions with their abusers.

RECOMMENDATION:

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price:

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter for signature by the Chairman to members of the San Diego Delegation, the Administration, the County's Sacramento Representative and other interested parties in support of AB 1522 - An act to amend Sections 782.5 and 4324 of the Family Code, relating to family law.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

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Pacific Beach

Rancho Bernardo

Rancho Penasquitos

Sabre Springs

San Carlos

Scripps Ranch

Solana Beach

Tierrasanta

Torrey Hills

Torrey Pines

BACKGROUND:

The County of San Diego is determined to reduce the hardship and suffering caused by domestic violence and sexual abuse. County law enforcement officers and prosecutors strive to bring justice to victims; county social programs provide support and rehabilitation. Under existing law, however, victims of felony sex crimes continue to suffer when court orders require them to pay spousal support to their attackers.

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The San Diego Domestic Violence Council reports that the economic costs of partner violence in the US are nearly \$13 billion a year. Of women who enter emergency rooms due to violence-related injuries, 84 percent sustained those injuries from an intimate partner.

The most recent statistics for San Diego County are 16,880 domestic violence incidents reported to law enforcements in 2010 and 12 people tragically murdered by a current or former intimate partner.

Victims of violent sex crimes suffer physical and emotional injury. In light of this suffering, it is unconscionable that victims must pay alimony, divide their property or share their pensions with their abusers.

This action will prepare a letter, to be signed by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, stating that the County of San Diego Supports California Assembly Bill 233.

Sincerely,



PAM SLATER-PRICE

District 3 Supervisor

San Diego County Board of Supervisors