

They say we are trying to scare you....

Here's what Angela says....

*I lived with my boyfriend and he started hitting me all the time. I wanted protection – **but the court turned me away.***

If you knew that a NO vote to the “marriage amendment” on the November 7th ballot meant you could protect 60,000 Virginians like Angela....

Would you vote?

On **November 7th** voters will be asked to vote on an amendment to the Virginia Constitution that will ban gay marriage **and recognition of any other relationships like marriage.**

This includes domestic violence victims who live with their abusers or have children with their abusers and are currently protected under Virginia's domestic violence laws.

If the Virginia Constitution is changed, **your daughter, sister, cousin, neighbor, friend** who is abused by her boyfriend may not have access to protections provided under Virginia law.

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Angela lives in Ohio where they voted in 2004 to ban gay marriage and any recognition of relationships like marriage.

Angela went to court to get a protective order so her boyfriend couldn't hurt her or her children. The judge said “no” because she wasn't married.

Do you want this to happen in Virginia?

In Ohio, judges say that if voters knew about the possible impact on domestic violence victims, but voted in support of the “marriage” amendment anyway, they **must not have cared about the impact on domestic violence victims.**

Let's show America that Virginia is different.

Up to **60,000 Virginians and their children** could be affected as the courts sort this all out. Are you willing to take that risk?

Protect **all Virginians** from domestic violence.

Let domestic violence victims know that Virginia cares –

Vote NO on November 7th

For more information call 866-387-3822,
email publicpolicy@vsdvalliance.org
or go to www.vsdvalliance.org

Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence
ACTION ALLIANCE

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Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence
ACTION ALLIANCE

Why we are so concerned for domestic violence victims –

Currently domestic violence victims in Virginia get the following protections that are not available under other laws such as simple assault and battery:

- Access to civil protective orders
- Protective orders can provide victims with:
 - Safety from further abuse for the victim and family members
 - Limited contact with the abuser
 - Access to temporary housing or family home
 - Temporary custody of children
 - Temporary child support
 - Use of the family car
 - Counseling for the abuser
- Enforcement of their protective orders in other states
- Access to Emergency (i.e. immediately) Protective Orders
- Enhanced penalties for repeat offenders of assault and battery against a family or household member
- When law enforcement responds to domestic violence, h/she must arrange for transportation to safe place, request an emergency protective order for the victim, and provide her/him with victim services referral information.

A change to the Virginia Constitution could eliminate these protections for many victims of domestic violence who are not married.

Is that a risk you are willing to take?

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