



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

Brian J. Moran
Secretary of Public Safety
and Homeland Security

March 31, 2020

Dear Virginia Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Service Agency Staff,

The past several weeks have been stressful and challenging for residents all over the Commonwealth -- but for some residents, it has also been dangerous. These are our friends, neighbors, and family members who are experiencing victimization, often at the hands of an intimate partner. You and your colleagues are on the front lines, helping victims of domestic and sexual violence navigate increased time at home and stressful conditions. You also continue to help victims in crisis situations find a safe place to go.

Through your crisis lines, safe shelters, emergency supplies, counseling, and various other services, victims of abuse receive hope and comfort, and they become a community of survivors. I anticipate both the needs, and the size, of this community to increase over the next few months. I understand that staff at the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services may assist you as you make needed changes to your programs to meet these needs. Please do not hesitate to reach out to them for help.

Working in the field of victim advocacy is never easy, and it is not lost on me that you and your colleagues may also be facing uncertainty, stress, and possibly personal trauma of your own. As you continue to serve others, please know that the Commonwealth is extremely grateful for the efforts of you and your colleagues. Your valuable services are quite literally saving lives.

Governor Northam and I thank you so much for all that you do.

With Deep Appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Moran", written in a cursive style.

Brian J. Moran
Secretary of Public Safety
and Homeland Security