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## **Confidential Address Program Bill Championed by SOS Toulouse Oliver Signed into Law**

SANTA FE – Legislation pushed by New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver to improve the state’s Confidential Address Program (CAP) was signed into law today. Secretary Toulouse Oliver worked with Senator Daniel Ivey-Soto, Representative Rebecca Dow, and advocates for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault during the 2018 legislative session.

“Survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault should not have to live in fear of their attackers,” said Secretary Toulouse Oliver. “By expanding the instances in which survivors can remain confidential, this legislation improves upon the security that the program already offers to survivors. I thank Senator Ivey-Soto, Representative Dow, and numerous advocates for working with me to help survivors conceal their contact information from their attackers.”

CAP participants are granted the use of a fictitious mailing address, which is maintained by the Office of the New Mexico Secretary of State. Mail that is sent to a participant first goes to CAP and then is forwarded to the participant’s real mailing address. This process maintains the participant’s confidentiality.

The new law, which was co-sponsored by Sen. Ivey-Soto and Rep. Dow, clarifies the policies and procedures of the existing program that allows survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault to register with the Secretary of State for mail delivery in order to protect the confidentiality of their real residential and delivery addresses. The bill, HB 119, passed both chambers of the state legislature unanimously.

“I’m excited this bill made it through the legislature and look forward to working with advocates to make the program even stronger in the future,” said Sen. Daniel Ivey-Soto. “Domestic violence and sexual assault survivors need to have their privacy maintained. The improvements to the confidential substitute address program will allow the Secretary of State to provide these protections.”

“Many victims of domestic violence are forced to flee with nothing and must start life all over,” said Rep. Dow. “The confidential substitute address program is one way we can protect victims, provide them with some peace of mind, and reduce the likelihood of further harm.”

“It is essential to connect survivors of domestic violence with resources specific to their needs like the confidential substitute address program,” said Lisa Weisenfeld, Policy Coordinator at the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence. “Expanding upon the existing program to increase its confidentiality and usefulness will help survivors address the many challenges in their daily lives.”

Additions to the current CAP program that are outlined the law include new language allowing participants to use the confidential address when registering their children at educational institutions or any other state agencies that require applicants to provide a home address.

In order to be eligible for CAP, a person must be a New Mexico resident or in the process of moving to the state in the near future, and they must be a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, attempted sexual assault, stalking, and/or fear for their safety or the safety of a family member.

To sign up for CAP, or for more information, call CAP toll-free at 1-888-432-5469, email at [CAP.sos@state.nm.us](mailto:CAP.sos@state.nm.us), or send direct mail to P.O. Box 1888, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

The new CAP law will go into effect on May 16, 2018 - 90 days after the conclusion of the 2018 Legislative Session.

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