



DELAWARE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Breaking the cycle of violence.

For Immediate Release
September 27, 2016

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Retiring Delaware Senator to be honored for decades of advocacy on behalf of victims

Wilmington, Del. – Retiring State Senator Karen Peterson will be honored by the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCADV) at their 2016 Purple Ribbon Event in Newark on Thursday, October 13. The ‘Vision of Peace Award’ is presented to those who have demonstrated sustained commitment and leadership in the effort to end domestic violence. Senator Peterson is being recognized for her significant public service contributions and courage to use her position to advance the equal rights and protections of all people. Her commitment to the protection of domestic violence survivors, in particular, has been unwavering as evidenced by the numerous legislative initiatives she has led during her fourteen years in the Delaware Senate.

Delaware’s domestic violence victims and survivors have had a strong and constant advocate in Senator Karen Peterson. Through the years, Senator Peterson has been outspoken about the need for transparency in our governmental systems, the unique needs of victims involved in the justice system, and the need for all systems to work collaboratively. Throughout her 14 years of legislative service, Senator Peterson has authored, sponsored or co-sponsored a wide array of laws aimed at eradicating domestic violence and improving the manner in which providers in Delaware work together to help domestic violence victims and their children maintain safety. Her commitment to ending discrimination and ensuring safety in the workplace has also ensured that Delaware women will have greater economic opportunities for years to come.

Additionally, Senator Peterson is recognized for her ongoing advocacy within the General Assembly’s Joint Finance Committee, which has ensured that vital community services like shelter and legal advocacy are maintained. Her respect and appreciation for the contributions of non-profit community service providers is yet another example of her awareness of the complex and challenging work of ending violence.

“Although retiring from the Senate at the end of this term, Senator Peterson’s legacy will live on and countless victims will benefit from her work. She has shown unwavering courage of conviction in the belief that all people have a right to be free from violence in their homes and in their communities and should be recognized for those efforts,” said DCADV Policy Director Mariann Kenville-Moore.

Past honorees of DCADV’s Vision of Peace Award include U.S. Senator Chris Coons, Vice President Joseph Biden, and Governor Jack Markell.

About The Purple Ribbon Event

The event will feature a cocktail party, live performance by Delaware’s Rainbow Chorale, a survivors’ art display, and presentation of two awards on Thursday, October 13 from 5:30pm-8:30pm at the Executive Banquet and Conference Center in Newark. New Castle County Victim Advocate is also being honored with the Spirit of Advocacy Award at the event.



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HopeLine from Verizon Wireless is the Premiere Sponsor of this year's public awareness event, held annually during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Other sponsors include Highmark Delaware (Advocacy Sponsor), Delaware City Refining Company (Empowerment Champion Sponsor), Artisans' Bank, RE/MAX Associates, UBS Chahal's Ward Group, Bank of America, and MidCoast Community Bank. For more information about the event, visit www.dcadv.org.

About Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCADV) is a statewide, non-profit organization with a membership including domestic violence agencies and programs providing shelter and direct services to adult victims of domestic violence, allied organizations, and caring individuals. Since its founding in 1994, DCADV has engaged in a variety of activities, including public education efforts, training and prevention initiatives, and systems advocacy. DCADV works closely with the criminal justice, health care, education, advocacy and social service communities to facilitate the creation of effective policies and programs for battered women and their children. In all of these efforts, DCADV is a crucial voice for domestic violence victims and their families.

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For media only:

Media are invited to attend and cover the event. Contact Stephanie Ferrell at 302-228-0834.