



*The Governor's Mansion
Montgomery, Alabama 36104*

September 12, 2014

Alabama League of Municipalities,

As First Lady of Alabama, I am using my platform to be a voice for the one in three women who are victims of domestic violence. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and I invite you to take part in our efforts to raise awareness, improve services and make Alabama communities safe for its families.

The Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence serves as the statewide professional association representing Alabama's 18 certified domestic violence shelters. Our shelters provide emergency shelter, crisis counseling, clothes, food, court assistance, job training, and a host of other critical services for the women and children who flee violent homes. Thanks to the hard work of Alabama's domestic violence shelters, victims and their children are able to obtain safety and life-saving services that often lead to a violence free future. While our state has made significant progress, there is still much to be done because domestic violence continues to be the number one cause of injury for Alabama women.

During the month of October, I am hosting a Candlelight Vigil on the Capitol steps along with a luncheon. The Capitol, State House and Governor's Mansion will have purple lights the first week as well as purple bows on their doors the entire month. I will unveil a restructured and rebranded ACADV as well as a four-year plan to make Alabama's domestic violence services the best in the country.

We will only be able to prevent domestic violence in our communities with the commitment of our leaders. I hope you will join me in this effort by signing the attached resolution and placing purple bows on the doors of your City Halls. Awareness is key in turning victims into survivors and making Alabama homes safe.

Sincerely,

Dianne Bentley

Dianne Bentley
First Lady of Alabama

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#DBversusDV

First Lady's initiatives for Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

- October 1, Candlelight Vigil 7:30 p.m. on the steps of the Capitol
- October 1-8 the Capitol, State House, and Governor's Mansion will be lit purple
- October 9 at 12 p.m. at Montgomery Country Club, First Lady's Luncheon co-hosted by the First Lady, Verizon, and ACADV
 - The First Lady is announcing a four-year plan to improve domestic violence services in Alabama.
 - The First Lady is unveiling the rebrand and restructure of ACADV, both of which she has been working on.
- Purple bows will be up all month on the doors of the Capitol, State House and Mansion
- Social media push (#DBversusDV) promoting Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the hotline number, 1-800-650-6522.
- City Resolutions proclaiming it Domestic Violence Awareness Month, informing citizens of ACADV, and committing to domestic violence prevention.
- The Governor will proclaim it Domestic Violence Awareness Month with an official Proclamation.

For more information on the ACADV, check out the website at <http://www.acadv.org/>