

LIANE M. SORENSON

Minority Whip
STATE SENATOR
Sixth District

Family Law Commission, Chair



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**SENATOR LIANE SORENSON'S SB 110 SIGNED BY GOVERNOR TO
PROTECT VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL OFFENSES AND
STALKING FROM EVICTION AND HOMELESSNESS.**

The Governor has signed Senate Bill 110, Sponsored by Senator Liane M. Sorenson (R-Hockessin) and others, to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual offenses or stalking from losing their residence as a result of their victimization.

The legislation ensures that tenants who are victims of these crimes are protected from eviction or other adverse actions when they seek services relating to their status as victims.

SB 110 was passed overwhelmingly with language agreed to by interested parties including the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, housing agencies, Community Legal Aid advocates, and representatives of realtors and other associations.

Senator Sorenson noted that the protections added to the law will also provide incentives for victims to seek help from police, courts, counseling and other services without fear of retaliation.

Senator Sorenson noted the lack of adequate housing as one of the major dilemmas faced by victims of these specific crimes, citing statistics from the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence:

- 92% of all homeless women have experienced severe physical or sexual abuse
- 63% of all homeless women have been victims of intimate partner violence
- 60 days is the average available emergency housing stay for victims and their children
- 6 to 10 months is the average time it takes for a victim and children to find permanent housing

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