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**Testimony in Support of House Bill 2524**

**Presented to the Senate Committee on Utilities  
By Dorthy Stucky Halley, LMSW  
Director of Victim Services Division**

**March 16, 2018**

Chairman Olson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2524. The Office of the Attorney General Victim Services Division provides a victim rights hotline, which is often used by victims of domestic violence, advocates, and criminal justice professionals attempting to help them. We often receive calls about those who batter using technology as a means to harass, stalk, gather information about, and control their victim. Many of the ways they do this is through access to the victim's cell phone, or by having rights to the service of their victim's phone and their children's phones.

HB 2524 would increase the level of safety provided to victims of domestic violence or stalking by allowing victims to maintain control of their cell phone and billing information when they obtain a protection from abuse order, or a protection from stalking and sexual assault order. Times of separation are the most dangerous times for victims of domestic violence. Consequently, protection orders are often issued to victims in extremely dangerous situations, so they need all the protection possible.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 2524.

SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

DATE: 3-16-18

ATTACHMENT # 4