

## The Paterson Scandal and Domestic Violence

To the Editor:

Re "[Paterson Is Said to Have Directed Calls to Accuser](#)" (front page, March 2):

In the midst of the implosion of a political career, and the endless analysis of the political jockeying, we must not lose sight of Gov. David A. Paterson's impact on all victims of domestic violence in New York State.

In his proposed budget, released just a month ago, the governor zeroed out \$3 million of dedicated domestic violence services financing — \$1.25 million of which is used in New York City to provide critical services to domestic violence victims. These services are lifelines to thousands of victims of domestic violence in New York City.

With this financing, New York City providers deliver social services to more than 3,200 victims and legal services to more than 1,000 a month, and annually answer more than 65,000 hot-line calls. Cutting these modest funds ultimately results in higher state costs in other areas, including increased emergency room visits, public assistance and shelter costs.

Shelter alone averages \$27,000 a year per family. Preventing shelter placement of just 46 families in New York City will save the \$1.25 million in one year alone.

Governor Paterson must take responsibility for assuring the safety of all victims of domestic violence throughout New York State by restoring these funds to the budget.

**Madeline Garcia Bigelow**

**Lucia Riviuccio**

**New York, March 2, 2010**

**The writers are the co-chairwomen of the New York City Coalition of Nonresidential Domestic Violence Service Providers, a coalition of 13 organizations that receive the above-mentioned financing to provide services to victims of domestic violence.**