

Greetings Madame Chair and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit a brief for your consideration.

My name is Courteney Paquette, and I am a Residential Therapist at Hiatus House, a domestic violence shelter for women and children in Windsor, Ontario. I have been a Social Worker at the shelter for the past six years. Throughout my time in shelter, we have consistently been at full capacity and have had to turn women and children away from seeking shelter due to lack of resources and shelter space. I am petitioning to the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women for an increase in consistent fiscal funding for our shelter, and others like it in Ontario. It is difficult to feel like we are doing our job effectively when our sector is underfunded and overworked. Resources are stretched very thin, and programming is being directly affected by lack of funding. No counsellor wants to tell a woman who is fleeing domestic violence that they cannot come to a shelter because there is no room for them. The Windsor-Essex county area is the most under serviced area in Ontario for domestic violence beds. I am asking as a fellow tax-paying citizen, and as a Social Worker who is directly affected by the housing crisis and lack of funding to please consider an increase in funding to the Violence Against Women's Sector.

Thank you,

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