Email Template

In using the template below, please replace all highlighted items with the appropriate information! You can find the name of your MP and their email address by searching by your postal code <u>here</u>.

We also encourage you to make this communication your own by adding in your thoughts on the proposed law and why it is important to you and to your local community.

Subject: I Stand with Survivors: Support Bill C-332

Dear [Mr./Mrs./Ms./Mx. Surname OR if your representative is a <u>cabinet minister</u>, Dear Minister or Dear Prime Minister]:

As a voter in your riding, I would like to call your attention to an important piece of legislation coming up before you. <u>Bill C-332</u>: An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Coercive and Controlling Conduct) is essential to protecting the one-in-three Canadians who report experiencing domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse causes immense harm to our families and communities. It accounts for **one in every four** violent crimes reported to police in Canada (Stats Canada). Further, as of 2009, the <u>Government of Canada estimated</u> the economic impact of domestic violence to be more than \$7.4 billion per year, amounting to \$220 per Canadian.

We must do everything we can to stop this violence, starting with passing this important law. Bill C-322 will:

- **Give survivors a voice.** Current definitions of abuse focused on physical harm ignore the vast number of Canadians who have been abused without a fist being raised.
- **Protect survivors.** Most victims of domestic abuse report experiencing coercive control, yet this dangerous form of abuse is not fully covered under existing statutes. When survivors ask for help, we need to answer.
- Prevent escalating violence.

According to a <u>2019 report</u> by the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability, coercive control is a common precursor to domestic homicide. With this bill, survivors will have legal protection and people who use coercive and controlling behaviours can be held accountable.

I appreciate your attention to this important issue and look forward to tracking your vote as the law moves to its second reading on November 9.

Sincerely,

Your First and last name
Your address [confirms you live in their riding]