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For Immediate Release

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The Pennsylvania House of Representatives today passed legislation that will strengthen Pennsylvania's Protection From Abuse Act and increase effectiveness of protection orders.

"PCADV commends Reps. Katie True (R. Lancaster) and Kathy Manderino (D. Philadelphia) for their sponsorship and leadership on House Bill 1717," said Susan Kelly-Dreiss, Executive Director.

"This legislation provides significant improvements to the PFA Act, including giving judges broader discretion when ordering relinquishment of a defendant's firearms." Kelly-Dreiss added.

Mike and Kathy Dyabelko of Lebanon state their family "is grateful to our lawmakers for recognizing the potential for lethality in domestic violence cases and for taking action to address it." "We have advocated for passage of this legislation in memory of our daughter, Stacy, in the hope it will spare countless others the pain we have lived with since her murder at the hands of a violent ex-boyfriend." The Dyabelko's say they are encouraged by the overwhelming support in the House for the bill and are optimistic for passage in the Senate.

A companion bill, S.B. 792, has been introduced in the Senate by Senators Jane Earll (R. Erie) and Mike O'Pake (D. Berks) and 46 co-sponsors.