January 10, 2012

Mr. Gregory Schmidt  
Secretary of the Senate  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. E. Dotson Wilson  
Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

VIA EMAIL AND HAND DELIVERY

Dear Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Wilson:

Attached is my office’s annual report on the California confidential mail forwarding program “Safe at Home,” which is required by California Government Code section 6210(a). If you have any questions about this report, please feel free to contact me at (916) 653-7244.

Sincerely,

Debra Bowen  
Secretary of State

Attachment

cc: Ms. Diane Boyer-Vine, Legislative Counsel
There isn’t a way to express my profound and immense gratitude for how helpful this program has been for me these past four years... The availability of confidential address and records has done much to contribute to peace of mind through stressful times.

- Safe at Home participant

Because every Californian should feel and be Safe at Home
January 10, 2012

Twelve years ago, California Safe at Home was a temporary program available only to victims of domestic violence. In 2000, the program expanded and allowed victims of stalking to enroll. By 2003, the list of those eligible to enroll grew further to include reproductive healthcare professionals and their patients; in 2007, sexual assault victims became eligible, too.

Safe at Home has sprung into a full-grown program that has positively affected thousands of Californians. And thanks to a 2010 law that made the Safe at Home program permanent, survivors no longer have to worry that the protections they rely on will disappear.

In 2011 – its first full year as a permanent program – Safe at Home continued to face budget limitations while experiencing a continued increase in the number of participants. Despite these challenges, Safe at Home staff reinforced the status as the most comprehensive address confidentiality program in the nation, offering more services to more participants than any other state.

Key 2011 accomplishments include:

- Supporting SB 636 (Chapter 200, Statutes of 2011), which grants additional Internet privacy protection provisions to Safe at Home participants who want personal identifying information removed from websites.
- Launching a more comprehensive Safe at Home website with improved navigability.
- Maintaining lower operational costs by running teleconference trainings and meetings.

I am pleased to present the Safe at Home 2011 Annual Report required by Government Code section 6210(a). I hope you will share in our pride in the program’s work to protect and assist so many victims who have started new lives free from fear.

Debra Bowen
Secretary of State