



## NCADV Commends Congress for the Omnibus Appropriations Bill

**Denver/Washington D.C., December 16, 2015** – The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) thanks Congress, particularly Appropriators, for their commitment to the safety and wellbeing of victims and survivors of domestic violence and other crimes. The proposed omnibus budget increases VAWA funding by \$31.5, FVPSA funding by \$15 million, and the VOCA funding available to victim service providers by \$200 million (15.5%) over the FY'15 budget. Currently, understaffed, inadequately funded domestic violence programs struggle to meet the needs of victims and survivors. The omnibus budget provides sorely needed resources to ensure programs can meet the needs of their communities.

While we are grateful to Congress for showing their commitment to victims and survivors of domestic violence, we are concerned about the precedent funding VAWA from VOCA sets for the future. VAWA is taxpayer-funded and is intended to improve the system-wide response to violence against women; its primary recipients are law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and prevention programs. VOCA, in contrast, is funded by criminal penalties and provides services and compensation for victims of all crimes; its primary recipients are direct service providers and individual victims. These are two very different funding streams with different purposes and different recipients. We look forward to working with Congress in the future to ensure VAWA and VOCA are funded separately, and to ensure tribes are able to access VOCA funds.

NCADV also commends the efforts of the thousands of advocates who contacted their members of Congress to push for a high VOCA disbursement. Their tireless work and advocacy convinced the U.S. Congress of the importance and value of funding victim service providers in their states and districts. The collective voice of advocates and constituents is vital to ensuring victims and survivors receive much-needed services to heal and to thrive.

Once again, NCADV heartily thanks Congress for taking a stand against domestic violence and working to create a culture where victims and survivors are empowered and have a voice.

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*NCADV is the voice of victims and survivors. We are the catalyst for changing society to have zero tolerance for domestic violence. We do this by affecting public policy, increasing understanding of the impact of domestic violence, and providing programs and education that drive change.*

*If you would like more information about this topic please email Jenna Oliver at [joliver@ncadv.org](mailto:joliver@ncadv.org) or call 303-839-1852 extension 104*



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*The vision of NCADV is to create a culture where domestic violence is not tolerated; and where society empowers victims and survivors, and holds abusers accountable.*