



February 13, 2017

Hi all,

We are writing to share follow up information and materials to help support your district visits with Members of Congress and Senators during the week of February 20th when Congress is in recess. Please forward this email to your local programs.

We are closely monitoring appropriations developments and much still remains unclear about the path ahead. In this time of transition, it is vital that the new Congress hear about your programs, federal funding sources that support sexual and domestic violence services and prevention, and the important work you do in your communities!

**If you have not scheduled your meeting(s), it's not too late!**

#### **Talking points/Prep materials**

- **Outline of Key Talking Points** was developed in partnership with the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence to walk you through the process including, setting up your meetings, how to prepare, what to say, and how to follow up. The talking points recommend touching on a few additional urgent issues during your meeting(s) including:
  - Sequestration: sequestration, or mandatory spending cuts, will very likely be in effect for fiscal year 2018 and pose a risk to all federal spending.
  - The Affordable Care Act (ACA): With the ACA under threat of repeal, we think it's important to let Congress know how essential good health insurance is to survivors of violence and how it specifically addresses the needs of survivors.
- **Extended Funding Talking Points** remind you of additional details on FVPSA, VOCA and VAWA.
- **Telling Your Story**
- **Key Members of Congress**
- **In-district Guide**

We know some of you have questions about advocacy and lobbying, and [these guidelines](#) might be helpful to review. Keep in mind that non-profits can engage in some lobbying, as long as they don't use federal or restricted funds to do so. Some of you may want to have educational meetings and avoid lobbying, and that is a perfectly acceptable approach! We've tailored the attached talking points to ensure you can have a strong educational meeting while avoiding a specific call to action if that's what you prefer.

The most important thing: **Act Now. Tell Your Story.**

As you're gathering with other advocates, professionals, survivor activists and/or allies to plan your meeting, we've provided a federal funding overview handout that outlines FVPSA, VAWA and VOCA.

**Leave behind materials:**

These are the materials that you can give your Members of Congress and

- **Funding Chart:** attached or [http://nnedv.org/downloads/Policy/Funding\\_Charts\\_/FY17\\_Pres\\_June16.pdf](http://nnedv.org/downloads/Policy/Funding_Charts_/FY17_Pres_June16.pdf); <http://endsexualviolence.org/files/FY17AppropriationsChart.pdf>
- Use data from the [DV Counts Census](#) to demonstrate the need for services;
- **VAWA one-pager** or <http://endsexualviolence.org/files/VAWAOnePage.pdf>
- **Funding overview**

**Social media:** Be sure to share your visit on social media! You can use twitter to thank your Member or post a photo to Facebook.

Know that these district visits are only a first step in our comprehensive funding advocacy strategy. As in past years, we will continue to work closely with our colleagues on the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, especially NNEDV, to track developments; develop letter templates; and continue to provide suggested, collective action.

**Please feel free to reach out for support and update us on your visits.** Thank you for all of your important work on behalf of survivors.

**The Policy Team**

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