



ACTION ALERT

Support Strong and Sustained Funding for Domestic & Sexual Violence Services

March 9, 2016 – feel free to forward

Each year, the House and Senate appropriations committees decide the level of funding for each federal program. We need to ensure that their funding priorities continue to invest in essential programs that serve survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Some of our strongest allies in the House and Senate are advocating for robust funding for our field's programs by writing "Dear Colleague" letters to the House and Senate Appropriations Committee Members. We can help these efforts by members of Congress by **contacting Members from our states and asking them to sign onto these letters**. The more Members who sign on, the more clearly the appropriations committee will understand that funding for survivor services is important.

Note: If your Congressional members consider themselves "VAWA supporters," it is very important that we ask them to support **funding** for all VAW-related programs so that the VAWA law isn't a hollow shell. If you call and find out that your Senators or Representative is already signed onto one of these Dear Colleague letters, thank them effusively.

Below are steps for finding your representative and talking points for encouraging them to sign-on to the "Dear Colleague" letters.

Thank you so much for your work on behalf of survivors!

Please call your Members in the House and the Senate this week!

- **Find your House member:** <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>
You can find your Representative by entering your zip code. When you find them, click on their name. This will take you to their individual website, where you can get their number. Phone numbers are typically at the bottom of the representative's webpage or on a "Contact Us" tab. You can also call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 225-3121.
- **Find your Senate member:** <http://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/> You can find your Senator by searching for your state. Clicking on your Senator's name in the search results will take you to their individual website, where you can find their phone number. Again, phone numbers are typically at the bottom of the Representatives' webpage or on a "Contact Us" tab. You can also call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121.
- **For the House and Senate, ask to speak with a staff person who deals with *appropriations*.** If they are unavailable, leave a voicemail.

Here's What You Can Say:

House:

I'm calling to ask your office to sign onto Representatives *Ted Poe's (R-TX) and Jim Costa's (D-CA)* "Dear Colleague" letter regarding funding for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). (Contact Blair Bjellos in Poe's or Kristina Solberg in Costa's office). *Please sign on by Thursday, March 17th.*

Please also sign onto the "Dear Colleague" letter supporting funding for the Violence Against Women Act and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) being circulated by Representatives Gwen Moore, John Conyers, Judy Chu and Jan Schakowsky. (Contact Izmira Aitch in Gwen Moore's office). *Please sign on by Thursday, March 24th.*

- Nearly one in every four adult women experiences at least one physical assault by a partner, and one in every five women are victims of sexual violence*.
- Life-saving federal programs, including VOCA, VAWA and the FVPSA, form the foundation of our nation's response to adult and child victims of domestic and sexual violence. These programs have also made significant progress towards breaking the cycle of domestic and sexual violence.

Senate:

- I'm calling to ask your office to sign onto *Senators Mike Crapo's (R-ID) and Patrick Leahy's (D-VT)* "Dear Colleague" letters to the appropriations committee. The letters support funding for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), the Violence Against Women Act and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. (Contact Dan Taylor in Senator Leahy's office) *Please sign on by Friday, March 11th.*
- Nearly one in every four adult women experiences at least one physical assault by a partner, and one in every five women are victims of sexual violence*.
- Life-saving federal programs, including VOCA, VAWA and the FVPSA, form the foundation of our nation's response to adult and child victims of domestic and sexual violence. These programs have also made significant progress towards breaking the cycle of domestic and sexual violence.