



National Task Force
to End Sexual and
Domestic Violence Against Women

November 17, 2015

ACTION ALERT

VOCA Update: Your calls, tweets, and emails are having an impact – BUT WE NEED TO MAKE ONE MORE POINT

Thanks to all of you who have contacted your U.S. Senators and Representative about the importance of keeping VOCA Fund disbursements at their current level for FY 2016. Your voices are being heard, and you are making a difference! But this is no time to rest – OVERALL FUNDING is under threat.

We have heard that Congress may fund other victim programs -- including VAWA programs – out of VOCA’s Crime Victims Fund. ALL Funding for Victims Must be Preserved. Do not trade one for another!

Programs across the nation count on the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to fund direct services for victims. VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) and VOCA work together – while VAWA provides systematic changes to victims services, VOCA responds to victims in the immediate aftermath of a crime. Fully funding VOCA does not necessitate lower funding for VAWA, or create a need to re-direct VOCA funds to non-VOCA purposes. Both VOCA and VAWA funding are critical to serve the needs of victims, and funding one should not come at the expense of the other.

Appropriators are finishing their work for FY 2016, so CALL YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TODAY (especially if they are on the appropriations committees or are party leaders, see below) with this message:

“We count on VOCA and VAWA to serve the needs of victims.

- **Fully fund VAWA and VOCA**
- **Do not redirect any VOCA funds for non-VOCA activities**
- **Release a steady tribal funding stream from VOCA**
- **Release \$2.7 billion from the Crime Victims Fund (CVF)**

In this year’s Appropriations process and beyond, Congress must maintain its commitment to helping the most vulnerable victims escape and heal from violence and abuse and rebuild their lives. Please don’t turn back the clock on victims. Victims in [Your state] are counting on sustained VOCA and VAWA funds. This is not the time to cut funding for victim services.”

To reach your Members of Congress:

[Find your Senators and Representative here](#); enter your full nine-digit zip code for the best results. You will be taken to their contact info, including phone number. **Be sure to say you are a constituent! You can also call the Capitol switchboard: [\(202\) 224-3121](tel:2022243121).** Choose **Representative** and then enter your zip code to be transferred. When you are done leaving a message

for your Representative, call back and follow the same process to leave messages for your **Senators**. Special attention should be given to the **Senate and House Appropriations committee members**.

Tweet ‘Til You Drop on Thursday November 19th at 12pm EST.

@your Senators' and Representative's Twitter handle (you can find this in the search box at the top right hand part of your screen)

Some example tweets:

- *VAWA and VOCA work together to save lives #FullyFundVAWA #DontCutVOCA*
- *Domestic violence victims need VOCA and VAWA to stay safe. Too many suffer without the services they need #DontCutVOCA #FullyFundVAWA*
- *Please protect the Victims of Crime Act. Rape Crisis Centers need to help victims on waiting lists.#DontCutVOCA #FullyFundVAWA*
- *Counselling helps victims recover from their trauma #DontCutVOCA #FullyFundVAWA*
- *Victims need legal services so they don't face the court alone #DontCutVOCA #FullyFundVAWA*
- *Hundreds of victims are turned away from shelter each day #DontCutVOCA #FullyFundVAWA*
- *Help victims get the services they need #DontCutVOCA #FullyFundVAWA*
- *Victims need justice #DontCutVOCA #FullyFundVAWA*
- *#DontCutVOCA just when survivors of sexual assault are finding courage to seek services.*
- *#FullyFundVAWA so law enforcement has the tools it needs to protect victims.*

Key Contacts:

@HalRogersKY
@NitaLowey
@CongCulberson
@RepMikeHonda
@SenThadCochran
@SenatorBarb
@SenShelby
@SpeakerRyan
@NancyPelosi
@SenateMajLdr
@SenatorReid
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