



March 29, 2017

Ask Your U.S. House Member to Endorse Strong and Sustained Funding for Domestic & Sexual Violence Services

Each year, the House and Senate appropriations committees decide the level of investment in 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 to sign-on to these letters. The more Members who sign on, the more clearly the appropriations committee will understand that funding for survivor services is important.

Background: Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funding is critical to understanding and addressing violence against women. With the passage of VAWA, federal funds have fostered record coordination between frontline stakeholders responding to domestic violence and sexual assault crises – police officers, victim service providers, prosecutors, judges and the criminal and civil justice systems. VAWA has raised a national learning community, fostering innovation and promoting best practices. Additionally, federal VAWA funds encourage States to leverage local and state funds in the effort to end these pervasive crimes. VAWA's work is complimented by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), which funds direct services to victims of all types of crime, including domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking, and by the Family, Violence, Prevention Services Act (FVPSA), which is our nation's only dedicated funding source for domestic violence programs and other related programs. VAWA, VOCA, and FVPSA have fueled our undeniable national progress.

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 of Representatives as soon as possible!

- **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](tel:2022253121).

- **After calling your Representative's office, ask to speak with a staff person who deals with *appropriations*.** If they are unavailable, leave a voicemail.

Here's What You Can Say:

- I'm calling to ask your office to sign onto *Representative Ted Poe's and Representative Jim Costa's* "Dear Colleague" letter regarding funding for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). ***Please sign on by Thursday, March 30th.*** The contacts for this letter are Kristina Thompson in Representative Poe's office and Kristina Solberg in Representative Costa's office.
- 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. ***Sign on by Monday, April 3rd.*** The contact for this letter is Izmira Aitch in Representative Gwen Moore's office.
- 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.
- If the staff person says they will sign or have already signed onto the Dear Colleague letters, thank them for supporting victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence!

The letters are attached so you know what you are asking them to sign. Please send these letters only to Hill staff who work for Members who you know and trust to be on our side.

Please make as many calls as you can/encourage others to do the same. For more information or questions, please contact: **Marium Durrani** by phone: 202.543.5566 ext. 110, or email: mdurrani@nnev.org.