



## FY 2010 APPROPRIATIONS FOR VAWA, FVPSA AND VOCA

Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking affect 1 in 4 American women and touch the lives of many families and individuals. Thanks to support from Congress and the Administration, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) and the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) support services that meet the needs of victims and help keep communities safe. Domestic violence has declined significantly since VAWA was first enacted and VAWA has saved taxpayers at least \$14.8 billion in net averted social costs in its first 6 years alone.

Despite the great promise and progress of these programs, an unconscionable gap exists between desperate need and adequate resources. We urge Congress to fully fund VAWA programs in the Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) bill at \$683 million and the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) bill at \$295 million.

### VAWA PROGRAMS IN THE CJS BILL

- VAWA programs in the CJS bill support the vital work of law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, shelters, and other state and local programs that provide services for victims and families.
- In FY '09 VAWA programs received \$415 million, a modest \$15 million increase from FY '08 funding.
- In order to keep victims safe and work to end domestic violence, we urge Congress to fully fund VAWA programs in the CJS bill at \$683 million.

### VAWA PROGRAMS AND THE FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES ACT (FVPSA) IN THE LHHS BILL

- LHHS-funded VAWA programs provide essential intervention and prevention services to end domestic and sexual violence. FVPSA supports lifesaving emergency shelter, crisis lines, counseling, victim assistance, prevention, outreach, and programs for underserved communities.
- The demand for services continues to rise. Every day shelters and service providers must turn away families in danger due to lack of resources; on one day in 2008, nearly 9,000 requests for services were unmet due to lack of resources.
- In the FY '09 Congressional Budget, FVPSA received \$127.7 million in appropriations, which is approximately \$50 million below the authorized level.
- To enable service providers to meet the growing demand services and help victims escape life-threatening situations, Congress must fully fund VAWA programs and FVPSA in the LHHS budget at \$295 million, including \$175 million for FVPSA.

### VOCA PROGRAMS IN THE CJS BILL

- The VOCA fund is made up of fines levied against federal criminals, and funds support services that help victims deal with the trauma and aftermath of a crime. More than 4,400 local agencies from all 50 states depend on VOCA assistance grants to serve approximately 4 million victims, at no cost to taxpayers.
- In FY '08 VOCA funds were cut by a devastating \$35 million. VOCA funding was increased to \$635 million in FY '09, which will restore the funding cut in FY '08.
- Without VOCA funding, some counties and communities would have no victim services. To secure lifesaving services for victims we urge Congress to provide \$705 million for the VOCA fund cap in FY 2010.

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