



## FVPSA Grassroots Campaign 2008

We must make sure Congress keeps its promises and priorities straight, and that means **keeping the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) at the top of Congress' "To Do" list**. You will be receiving information and updates over the next few weeks with ways you can continue to advocate and hold Congress accountable for the promise made to survivors of domestic violence the day they recognized the need to support survivors and authorized FVPSA.

### What Happens Next?

As fall approaches, Congress will begin to finish up their Appropriations bills for the 2009 fiscal year. Appropriations bills establish how much money programs will get. However, Congress gets really busy during this time and sometimes they do not finish up the bills before the fiscal year ends on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Instead, they pass Continuing Resolutions (CR's) to make sure the government continues to run, but this is not the optimal course of action. Because this is such a busy time, **we must continue to communicate with Congress so that they won't let funding for domestic violence programs get lost in the process.**

### What You Can Do Now!

#### Write a thank you letter...

Your Members of Congress work hard to ensure that their constituent's needs are met and they take pleasure in knowing that their hard work is paying off. We want Members of Congress to know we appreciate their hard work and the time they take to hear and address our concerns. As a follow-up to our meeting(s) on Legislative Action Day, write a thank you letter expressing your appreciation for the meeting opportunity you or your fellow advocates had. Also, thank your Members for their commitment to ending domestic violence by **reauthorizing and fully funding FVPSA**. See page 17 of the Legislative Action [Guide](#) for more information. (This letter should be sent to your Members' Washington offices, but can also be sent to their District office(s).)

*\*Always follow-up with a note or letter of appreciation anytime your Members and their staffs meet with you, attend one of your functions, or take an action that supports survivors and your programs.*

#### Lobby at home...

Your Members of Congress are currently at home in their districts and states during August recess (ends September 8<sup>th</sup>). This is a great opportunity to continue advocating and to grab their attention when they don't have to deal with the Washington whirlwind. Also, meeting and communicating with the District office staff is sometimes more effective than the contact you make in Washington, DC because there are fewer requests being made and the District staff is charged with keeping your Member informed of the needs within the district.

You can:

- Schedule a **visit** with your Members of Congress and/or their staffs at the District office. See page 16 of the Legislative Action [Guide](#) for more information.\*
- Host or attend an **event** where your Member(s) and/or their staff will be present. See page 20 of the Legislative Action [Guide](#) for more information.
- Invite your Members of Congress and/or their staff to **tour** your shelter or program. See page 21 of the Legislative Action [Guide](#) for more information.\*

- Reach out to the **media**. See pages 18-19 of the Legislative Action [Guide](#) for more information.

\*Click [here](#) for more information on how to contact your Members of Congress.

### **Sign up and stay informed...**

If you do not currently receive the monthly "Policy Newsletter" and "Legislative Alerts and Updates," please subscribe by sending your email address to [publicpolicy@ncadv.org](mailto:publicpolicy@ncadv.org).

### **A Word of Thanks!**

Thank you to all survivors, advocates, state coalitions, law enforcement officials, legal advocates, health care providers, corporate and celebrity supporters, and other organizations and individuals who join us in our grassroots advocacy efforts. It is YOUR advocacy that makes all the difference!

### **Questions and Information**

For questions or additional information, feel free to contact the Public Policy Office at [publicpolicy@ncadv.org](mailto:publicpolicy@ncadv.org) or 202.745.1211.