



December 15, 2005

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence End of the Year Public Policy Legislative Update

It is our mission to provide current information on the latest national legislation affecting the domestic violence community. This newsletter is designed to provide you with policy updates, calls to action, links to useful resources, and other valuable information. This newsletter is in addition to the critical policy action alerts NCADV already circulates to the community. By staying actively involved and informed, you can help us in our effort to enact effective domestic violence legislation. Please feel free to forward this information to your colleagues and community.

URGENT VAWA ACTION ALERT!!! PLEASE FORWARD

DON'T LET VAWA EXPIRE! WE NEED YOUR CALLS TODAY, TOMORROW, AND SATURDAY. THIS IS IT!!!!

VAWA is poised to go to the floor of the House and Senate this week!

All the differences between the House and Senate Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) bills have been resolved and the final VAWA is ready to be passed by Congress THIS WEEK - just in time before they recess for the year!

The Senate is in position to pass VAWA today (Thursday), but some obstacles - such as procedural difficulties and unrelated political arguments - still remain. Once the Senate passes the final bill, it will be sent to the House, and they must pass the bill before they recess. We anticipate that the House will recess for the year on Saturday or Sunday, so we don't have much time!

This is it! We are so close to the finish line and we need you to help us cross it!

As you know, without your voices, there would be no VAWA! Without grassroots action, Congress can easily stall on VAWA for the rest of the week. So call in one last time, and urge your friends

and family to call, too!

We need EVERYONE to make calls as soon as possible today, tomorrow, and even Saturday.

All Members of Congress can be helpful. Even if they have promised to support VAWA, they need to hear from you again.

What to say: Start off by telling them your name and the city and state you live in. "*Thank you for your hard work on VAWA! Please make sure VAWA is finished THIS WEEK before you recess.*" Tell them what it will mean to your community if VAWA is not reauthorized.

To find your Member's contact information, including phone and fax numbers, visit www.house.gov, www.senate.gov, or call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask for your Senators and Representative.

House Introduces Rape Prevention Education Bill

On December 9, 2005 Representative [Michael Fitzpatrick](#) (R-PA) introduced H.R. 4478, a bill to reauthorize the Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) Grant Program. RPE Programs, originally established under the Violence Against Women Act 2000, provide more than \$42 million in funding to support rape prevention activities in all 50 states, 8 territories, and the District of Columbia. The RPE program authorizes programs including; educational seminars; hotline operations; training programs; college awareness programs; and information on date rape drugs.

Army Proposes Sexual Assault Victim Database

The U.S. Army has proposed the creation of the Sexual Assault Data Management System (SADMS), a centralized database of alleged sexual assault victims and assailants. This database will contain identifying information including the names, social security numbers, police reports and medical records of alleged sexual assault victims and assailants.

Although the Defense Department's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office claims that the purpose of SADMS will be to track the number of reported sexual assaults and the services rendered to victims as well as determining resources for prevention and response programs, these goals can be achieved through anonymous data. The collection of private identifying information and medical records could deter sexual assault victims from reporting if victims know they will be identified and that the information they provide will be compiled into an accessible database. For more information on SADMS visit www.stopfamilyviolence.org. To send a letter to the Department of Defense speaking out against the database, [CLICK HERE](#).

World Health Organization Releases First Global Study on Domestic Violence

According to a study conducted by the World Health Organization on November 25th 2005, women who are physically abused by a partner are likely to experience health problems, regardless of whether they live in a modern industrialized city or a rural area in a developing nation. The study, conducted by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and PATH, is the first global study on domestic violence. Through interviews with 24,000 women in ten different countries (Brazil, Ethiopia, Japan, Namibia, Peru, Samoa, Serbia and Montenegro, Thailand, Bangladesh and Tanzania), researchers found that victims are about twice as likely as non- victims to suffer from poor health and that such effects persist long after the violence has stopped. This health impact of domestic violence went beyond injuries, as women who had experienced physical or sexual violence by a partner were more likely to have pain, dizziness, and mental health problems. Victims were also more likely to have considered suicide and to have suffered miscarriages.

The WHO study, which omitted North America and Western Europe, found that rates of domestic violence varied between 15% of women having been victimized in Japan to 71% in Ethiopia. Additionally, the study shows that women in developed countries were less likely to be currently suffering from abuse than were women in developing countries with 4% of women in Japan having experienced an attack in the preceding year compared to 54% in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Peru and Tanzania. Despite such discrepancies, however, the WHO study shows that for women who experience domestic violence, the impact of such violence on health is consistent across all settings. For more information or to view the complete WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence Against Women, [CLICK HERE](#).

NCADV AND NAESV NATIONAL LOBBY DAY

Save the Date for Early April



NCADV is thrilled to announce an exciting collaboration for the 8th Annual NCADV National Lobby Day. NCADV is proud to cosponsor this year's Lobby Day with the [National Alliance to End Sexual Violence](#). All domestic violence and sexual assault advocates are invited to come to Washington DC for a week's worth of events including a reception and breakfast with Members of Congress, congressional briefings, informational sessions on VAWA and Appropriations, and many additional sponsored activities. Advocates will be lobbying for fiscal year 2007 appropriations funding for existing VAWA programs and hopefully new programs created by VAWA 2005, such as the Sexual Assault and Services Program, which provides a dedicated federal funding stream for sexual assault victims. Details and dates are still being finalized, but we tentatively plan on hosting this year's event in early April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, to emphasize both domestic and sexual violence. Look for upcoming details regarding dates, registration, agenda, and accommodations on our website and in our Legislative Update newsletter. To subscribe to the NCADV Legislative Update Newsletter, send an email to publicpolicy@ncadv.org with your email address in the body of the email.

Introducing the New NCADV Domestic Violence Fact Sheets

NCADV is pleased to introduce our new domestic violence fact sheets. General domestic violence facts are available as well as issue specific statistics regarding dating violence, sexual assault, dv and housing, dv and immigration, dv and pregnancy, as well as many other topics. In addition, NCADV has compiled state specific fact sheets with information about domestic violence statistics and programs from individual states. The state specific fact sheets also list shelter contact information by congressional district. [CLICK HERE](#) to visit the statistics page of the NCADV website. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding any of our fact sheets, please contact the NCADV Public Policy Office at 202-745- 1211 or at publicpolicy@ncadv.org.

The Third National Battered Mother's Custody Conference

To be held January 6 - 8, 2006 at the Sarazen Student Center, Siena College, 515 Loudon Road, Loudonville, NY (two miles north of Albany.) Visit www.batteredmotherscustodyconference.org for registration, brochure, schedule, topics, fees, fee waiver, hotel, and other details.

Thanks to the NCADV Fall Interns

NCADV would like to thank this fall's PPO interns Lara Pukatch and Dana Campbell. Lara will be spending the next three months in Israel working on women's policy issues and Dana is finishing her final semester at Georgetown University. Both women were outstanding additions to our office and we wish them well in their future endeavors.

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges DC Office is Officially Open

Family Violence Department of the [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#) has officially opened its new DC office and national judicial training center in partnership with the Office on Violence Against Women of the U.S. Department of Justice and the Family Violence Prevention Fund. They are pleased to welcome Rob Valente as Assistant Director of the Department in the DC office. Valente has in-depth experience in working on projects relating to family law and domestic violence, having served as Director of the American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence and worked as Attorney Advisor to Office on Violence Against Women in the U.S. Department of Justice.

From our Main Office in Denver, Colorado Conference Update!!!

NCADV's 12th National Conference will be held July 9 - 12, 2006 in Atlanta, Georgia at the Omni Hotel @ CNN Center. Don't miss discounts on early registration and the call for workshop proposals! Visit the [NCADV conference webpage](#) for all the necessary information.

HURRY! EARLY CONFERENCE REGISTRATION EXTENDED TO JANUARY 17, 2006. Given recent tragedies and because we know how hard it is to raise money in this struggling economy, NCADV has decided to reduce its conference registration rates to that of earlier years in effort to make the 2006 conference more affordable. We hope this reduction of rates helps make it possible for you to attend. Registration rates before January 17th are just \$175 per person for NCADV members and \$300 for nonmembers. Receive further discounts when you register four or more individuals from the same organization. [CLICK HERE](#) for full brochure and registration form.

WORK SHOP PROPOSAL DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JANUARY 17, 2006. Don't miss this opportunity to be a presenter at NCADV's 2006 conference. All selected workshops will reflect the conference theme and the diversity of the movement to end domestic violence. If you intend to submit a workshop by the January 17th deadline, send an email to conference@ncadv.org. In the email, include your name, contact information and proposed workshop topic. Download a copy of the workshop submission form from NCADV's website by [CLICKING HERE](#).

The NCADV Public Policy Office

The Public Policy Office of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is a national leader in the effort to create and influence Federal legislation that positively affects the lives of domestic violence victims and children. We work closely with advocates at the local, state and national level to identify the issues facing domestic violence victims, their children and the people who serve them and to develop a legislative agenda to address these issues. NCADV welcomes you to join us in our effort to end domestic violence.

publicpolicy@ncadv.org

You can subscribe to the NCADV Public Policy Newsletter by sending an email to publicpolicy@ncadv.org with "subscribe" in the subject line and your email address in the body of the text. You can also contact our office at (202) 745-1211.

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