

NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Every Home A Safe Home

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGISLATIVE ACTION GUIDE

Second Edition

An Advocate's Guide to Domestic Violence Policy

**National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Public Policy Office**

NCADV Public Policy Office · 1633 Q St NW # 210 · Washington, DC 20009
Phone: (202) 745-1211 · Fax: (202) 745-0088 · publicpolicy@ncadv.org

NCADV CONTACT INFORMATION



PUBLIC POLICY OFFICE

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
1633 Q Street, NW #210
Washington D.C. 20009

Phone: (202) 745-1211
Fax: (202) 745-0088

STAFF

Public Policy Director: **Jill Morris**
jmorris@ncadv.org

Public Policy Associate: **Jen Winkelman**
jwinkelman@ncadv.org



MAIN OFFICE

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 1603
Denver, CO 80203

Phone: (303) 839-1852
Fax: (303) 831-9251

STAFF

Executive Director: **Rita Smith**
rsmith@ncadv.org

Membership Director: **Sylvia Baca**
sbaca@ncadv.org

Training Director: **Brooke Ely**
bely@ncadv.org

Program Service Coordinator: **Edna Frantela**
Efrantela@ncadv.org

Finance Director/Office Manager: **Tannis Haley**
thaley@ncadv.org

Development Director: **Brian Heider**
development@ncadv.org

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AN INTRODUCTION TO NCADV

In 1970 there was no such thing as a domestic violence shelter. Today there are over 2000 shelter and emergency service programs, forming a national movement based on the belief that victims and their children are entitled to a safe environment free from acts and threats of violence.

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) was formally organized in January 1978 when over 100 battered women's advocates from all parts of the nation attended the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Hearing on Battered Women in Washington, D.C. NCADV remains the only national organization of grassroots shelters and service programs for battered women.

NCADV is governed by a working Board of Directors comprising caucus representatives and at-large members who are themselves active in domestic violence programs in their communities. NCADV represents both rural and urban areas. Our programs support and involve victims of domestic violence of all social, racial, ethnic, religious, and economic groups, ages and lifestyles. We oppose the use of violence as a means of control over others, and support equality in relationships and strategies for helping victims assume power over their own lives.

NCADV serves as a national information and referral center for the general public, media, battered women and their children, agencies, and organizations. NCADV also has a strong track record of providing programs with information and technical assistance, and has promoted the development of innovative programs, which address the special needs of all victims of domestic violence and battered women's programs. NCADV has also sponsored numerous national conferences on domestic violence and is also a sponsor of "October National Domestic Violence Awareness Month," in which communities across the country organize special events and activities to draw attention to the magnitude of the problem of domestic violence and the work that is being done to end it.

The Public Policy Office of NCADV

The NCADV Public Policy Office 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 organized testimony for the Attorney General's Task Force Hearing on Family Violence; worked with federal legislators to develop priorities for the Victims of Crime Act funds enabling funding for battered women's programs; supported the development and passage of the Family Violence Prevention Services Act; worked toward the passage and reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act; and was a key player in the passage of the Domestic Violence Gun Ban Law. Located in Washington, D.C., the Public Policy Office represents the needs of its over 2,000 members and coalition partners to elected officials in Congress.

The Public Policy Office works to influence Congress, monitors state and federal legislative developments, and provides information to shelters, state coalitions and other grassroots advocates on pending federal policy initiatives. We provide information and technical assistance to Congressional offices and work to educate the public on the impact of legislative efforts on domestic violence in the field. The Public Policy Office works in coalition with other organizations fighting to end oppression in the lives of women and all human beings here in the United States and abroad.

A MESSAGE FROM NCADV



It is up to you to let your legislators know what you want...



Legislative action is an important part of the movement to end domestic violence. By making your views known to your legislators you can help create laws and secure the funds necessary to influence federal legislation and distribution of funds. Laws and the appropriate funding to programs are critical to providing the resources and services needed by domestic violence victims as well as preventing future violence.

This manual is designed to enhance the efforts of NCADV members and other activists in the domestic violence community in becoming active participants in the democratic process. This valuable resource serves to assist our members in effectively influencing legislation that affects domestic violence victims. **Please note** that the manual is specifically designed for acting at the federal level, yet much of the information is relevant for state and local legislative systems.

The manual is divided into several sections outlined on the following Table of Contents. You will find everything from an explanation of how a bill becomes a law to how to contact your Member of Congress to encourage him/her to support a specific piece of legislation.

We encourage you to stay abreast of domestic violence legislation on both the local and national level and then **take action** by utilizing one of the many actions described in this manual. Whether you initiate a letter writing campaign or hold a press conference to bring attention to a bill or issue, your efforts will be rewarded. By expressing your views and by encouraging your legislators to do the right thing, you will become part of the larger struggle devoted to ensuring that legislation is passed which will better protect domestic violence victims and their families.

Finally, remember that you should feel free to contact our public policy office at any time if you need further assistance.

Sincerely,

Jill Morris
Public Policy Director

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND GOOD LUCK



WHITE HOUSE

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address:

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Phone Numbers:

(202) 456-1414 (switchboard)
(202) 456-2461 (fax)

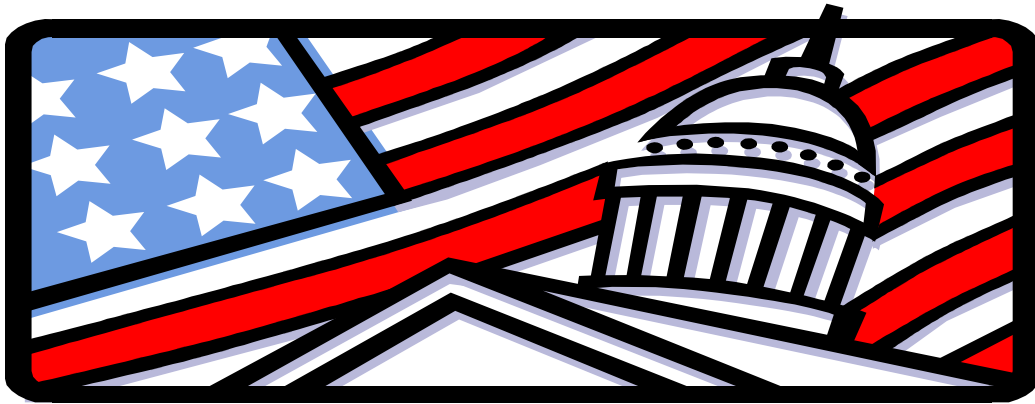
E-Mail Addresses:

President: president@whitehouse.gov
Vice President: vice.president@whitehouse.gov
First Lady: first.lady@whitehouse.gov

Website:

www.whitehouse.gov

Federal Government Contact Information



Who is my House Representative? Who are my Senators?

To learn who your House of Representative member is visit www.house.gov and type in your zip code. To learn who your Senators are visit www.senate.gov and choose your state. If you do not have access to the internet, call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

To contact your **Senator**, visit

www.senate.gov

or write

The Honorable (Senator's Name)

United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

or call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard

(202) 224-3121

To contact your **Representative**, visit

www.house.gov

or write

The Honorable (Representative's Name)

United States House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

or call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard

(202) 224-3121

To contact the **White House**, visit

www.whitehouse.gov

or write to

President (Name)

1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

Washington, D.C. 20500

or call the White House Switchboard

(202) 456-1414

Understanding The Legislative Process

The Structure of Government

Part of being an effective political activist is having a basic understanding of how the government is set up and how the legislative process works.



Executive Branch

The Executive Branch is composed of the President, Vice President, cabinet, and all related agencies, e.g., FBI, Treasury, Department of Justice, Health & Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, etc. It is the responsibility of the executive branch to execute the laws passed by the U.S. Congress.



Judicial Branch

The Judicial Branch is comprised of the U.S. Supreme Court (nine justices), and all federal courts. Supreme Court justices are appointed by the President, approved by the U.S. Senate, and serve a life term. Generally, most federal judges are also appointed by the President, approved by the Senate, and serve a life term. The Judicial Branch interprets the constitutionality of the laws passed by Congress.



Legislative Branch

The U.S. Congress makes up the Legislative Branch. Congress consists of the Senate (100 Senators, 2 per state) and the House of Representatives (435 representatives, based on population of the state). Senators serve six-year terms, and the elections are staggered so that one-third of the Senate is up for election every two years. Representatives serve two-year terms and elections for the entire House are held every two years. The Legislative Branch is responsible for writing, passing, and changing federal laws, which affect the entire country.



State and Local Government

State governments are similar to the federal government in that they are bicameral (two houses) forms of government. Nebraska is the only unicameral state government.

State legislatures are responsible for passing laws which affect the entire state. Counties, cities, and towns have their own governing bodies which pass ordinances and regulations pertaining only to particular jurisdictions.

Understanding The Legislative Process

CONGRESSIONAL STAFF ROLES

An additional way to help familiarize yourself with the legislative process is to have a basic understanding of how your Member of Congress' office is structured. Knowing the role and function of individual staffers will help you when communicating with your representative.

Chief of Staff/Administrative Assistant

- Supervises all aspects of the Member's office.
- Reports directly to the Member of Congress.

Legislative Director

- Supervises legislative staff.
- Monitors legislative schedule.
- Makes recommendations to the Member on legislative issues.
- Keeps the Member updated on all legislative matters.

Legislative Assistants

- Focus on specific issues such as women's issues, appropriations, etc.
- Meet with constituents when Member is not available.
- Are experienced in issues and workings of Capitol Hill.

Scheduler

- Creates and maintains the schedule for the Member of Congress. Ask to speak with the scheduler when calling to make an appointment with your representative.
- Makes travel arrangements.
- Takes requests for speaking engagements, etc.

Press Secretary/Communications Director

- Maintains communication between the Member, his/her constituency and the general public.
- Promotes the views and position of the Member on various issues.

Caseworkers

- Respond to constituent requests, which often includes contacting government agencies on the constituent's behalf (e.g. Social Security, Medicare and passports issues).
- A vast majority of caseworkers are located in district/state offices.

Other Staff Members include: Executive Assistants, Staff Assistants, Office Managers, and Interns.



Each representative has his or hers staff members and positions listed on their congressional website. Visit <http://www.congress.org> and locate your individual member. Then click on the link "staff members" and you can locate of the name and position of each person on the Member's staff.



LAWMAKING

How A Bill Becomes A Law

One of the best ways to understand the legislative process is understanding how a bill becomes a law.



Origins of Legislation

Suggestions for legislation can come from anyone, i.e. lawmakers, interest groups, constituents. However, legislation can only be officially introduced by a Member(s) of Congress. The Member who introduces the bill is known as the chief sponsor of the bill.



Committee Assignment

Once a bill is introduced, it is assigned a number and referred to a specific committee. A subcommittee may consider the bill before any action is taken by the full committee. Committees “mark up” or make changes to the bill, hold public hearings allowing testimony for or against the bill, and are responsible for deciding whether to “report” or “not report” a bill to the House or Senate floor. Bills not reported die in committee and no further action is taken. Bills reported to the floor are scheduled for floor action.



Chamber Floor

Once a bill is reported from committee, it moves to the floor of the respective chamber, either House or Senate. At this time rules and restriction are placed on the bill limiting the time of debate, including what types

and how many amendments may be added to the bill. The Members then debate the bill and take a vote. If the bill passes one chamber, i.e. the Senate, it then moves to the House, or vice versa. Once a bill passes through one chamber, it undergoes a similar process in the other chamber.



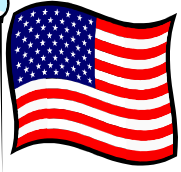
Conference Committees

If there is a substantial difference between the bills passed by each chamber, then a conference committee is convened to resolve the differences. The conference committee is composed of Members from each chamber. Once the committee produces a final bill, known as a “conference report,” the bill is then sent back to both chambers to be voted on again. Once the bill leaves the conference committee to be voted on by each chamber, it cannot be amended or changed. If both chambers approve the bill, the bill is sent to the president.

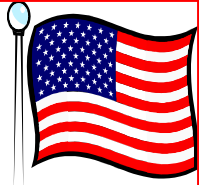


The President

When Congress sends a bill to the President, the bill will either be signed or vetoed. If the bill is signed, it becomes law. If the bill is vetoed, it goes back to Congress for a vote. A two-thirds majority vote is required to override a presidential veto and enact a bill into law.



HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



The House

Legislation is introduced in the House.



The bill is assigned a number and sent to a committee and possibly a subcommittee.



Subcommittees and committees hold public hearing on the bill, make changes, and vote on the bill.



If the bill passes out of committee, it goes to the Rules Committee to determine limits on debate and amendments.



The bill is debated and voted on.



If the bill passes, it is sent to the Senate or to a conference committee to resolve difference with an already existing Senate bill.



The Senate

Legislation is introduced in the Senate.



The bill is assigned a number and sent to a committee and possibly a subcommittee.



Subcommittees and committees hold public hearings on the bill, make changes, and vote on the bill.



If the bill passes out of committee, the Senate leadership schedules the debate and determines the rules for debate.



The bill is debated and voted on.



If the bill passes, it is sent to the House or to a conference committee to resolve difference with an already existing House bill.



A final bill, approved by both chambers, is sent to the President for signature or veto.

TRACKING LEGISLATION

There are several resource available to follow bills through the legislative process:



WEBSITE RESOURCES

Thomas: <http://thomas.loc.org>

- This website is the most comprehensive site for congressional information. It contains the full text of bills, bill summary and status, hearing testimony, recorded notes, committee reports, and other useful information about a particular piece of legislation.

U.S. Senate: <http://www.senate.gov>

- The “Legislation & Records” link provides information about bills and resolutions being considered in the Senate. The site allows viewers to track bills and see how individual members voted on a particular bill. The site also provides a schedule for upcoming legislative activity.

U.S. House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov>

- The “Legislative Action” section provides information about bills and resolutions being considered in the House. The site allows viewers to track bills and see how individual members voted on a particular bill. The site also provides a schedule for upcoming legislative activity.

Congressional Record: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/crecord/index.html>

- The Congressional Record is the official record of the proceedings and debates of Congress. It is published daily when Congress is in session. It provides daily summaries of action in each chamber, committee hearings, bills introduced, bills signed, and a schedule of committee meetings for the following day.

Washington Post: <http://www.washingtonpost.com>

- At this site in “Today Congress” you will find pertinent information on any action items that will happen in Congress on that date.

Congress.org: <http://www.congress.org>

- This resource is valuable when attempting to locate information about a particular Member of Congress



TELEPHONE RESOURCES

Daily Calendar Information: The Cloakroom

- Both the Democratic and Republican Party provide recorded messages about the floor proceedings in both the House and Senate.
- Senate Democratic (202) 224-8541 and Senate Republican (202) 224-8601
- House Democratic (202) 225-7400 and House Republican (202) 225-7430

Legislation Status

- The Office of Legislative Information on Capital Hill responds to telephone inquiries regarding current legislation. A staff member can give you information such as the status of certain legislation, bills introduced by a specific Member of Congress, or bills introduced on a given subject — (202) 225-7400.

ACTION TOOLS: How to Contact Your Legislator

Because representatives are elected by constituents, constituent concerns are of the utmost importance to elected officials. The best way to enact legislative change is to effectively communicate your concerns to your representative. The most successful lobbying techniques involve personal and direct contact with your Member of Congress. Be sure to contact **YOUR** legislator. *Your legislator works for you so make your concerns known!*

WRITE A LETTER

Letters, particularly ones sent by email or fax, are an effective way to communicate your views to your legislator. Because of security measures, **mailed letters are often delayed almost two months before they reach a Member's office.** A letter is still an effective way to communicate with your legislator about an issue that is not time-sensitive, but emails and faxes are faster and will reach your Member without delay. The format for postal letters, emails, and faxes is the same. By following this format you can express your perspective and personal opinion on a specific issue, encourage your representative to vote for or against pending legislation, and inform your legislator of your intention to follow his or her vote on an issue.

[Here are a few tips for writing an effective letter, email, or fax:](#)

- **If you are a constituent, begin your letter by saying so.**
- Clearly state your position. State exactly what you want your legislator to do, i.e. cosponsor a bill, vote for or against a bill. Refer to a bill number if you have one.
- Keep your letter focused and only address one issue
- Use personal experience. Tell a personal story or include statistics or stories from a local shelter.
- Be brief — try to keep your letter to one page.
- Use your shelter letterhead if possible or personal stationary. Be sure to include your address and phone number so your legislator can contact you.
- Request a reply. You will want a hard copy of your legislator's position on an issue.

Email

Email allows you to communicate with your representatives quickly and easily. Follow the same guidelines for writing a letter, but remember to keep the email brief and focused. Keep in mind representatives receive several emails a day. You can locate your representative's email address on his or her website.

FAXING

Faxing is an excellent way to contact your representative and inform him/her about your concerns regarding an issue or a bill. Like email, the legislator will receive your letter quickly, but a fax will also allow you to better format your letter and use your shelter or organization's letterhead. When faxing representatives, follow the guidelines outlined for letter writing and email.

ACTION TOOLS: Writing Your Legislator

SAMPLE ACTION LETTER

Today's Date

The Honorable *[Full Name]*
(*Office Number and Building Name*)
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator *[Last Name]*:

Over the past ten years Congress has responded positively and effectively to the fight against domestic violence by fully funding many of the programs created by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Programs such as the National Domestic Violence Hotline, battered women's shelters, and increased trainings for police, prosecutors and court officials have all contributed to the decline in domestic violence since VAWA was first authorized in 1994.

A major VAWA program is the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA). FVPSA provides for life-saving emergency shelters, crisis lines, counseling, victim assistance, and programs for underserved communities. These programs are at the heart of our response to domestic violence. Over the last twenty years, shelters have evolved to provide a wide spectrum of services, from helping a woman start a savings account to arranging transportation for her to get to work. There are currently more than 2000 community-based domestic violence programs for victims and their children. These programs provide emergency shelter to approximately 300,000 women and children annually. They also provide services such as counseling, legal assistance, and preventative education to more than 57 million women, men and children annually.

[Insert information, statistics, and/or stories describing the need for VAWA in YOUR community.]

Without these VAWA programs, women and children in *[your Congressional district]* cannot access the services they need to escape from violence.

In order to successfully meet the needs of victims of domestic violence, VAWA must be reauthorized. On behalf of *[name of your organization]* representing the interests of victims of domestic violence in *[state, county, city]*, we urge you to support the reauthorization of all VAWA programs. **Please do all you can to ensure that VAWA programs are reauthorized.**

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact *[your name and program]*. I would appreciate it if you would inform me of your position on VAWA. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

[Your Name & Organization]

ACTION TOOLS: Calling Your Legislator

PHONE CALLS



If you find that you do not have time to write a letter, making a phone call is one of the quickest ways to contact your legislator. And when an urgent matter arises, nothing brings an issue to the attention of a legislator like tying up the office phone lines.

There are several tips to remember before making a phone call:

- First, ask to speak to the staffer working on your issue.
- Second, if you're a constituent, identify yourself as one.
- Third, be brief and specific. Staffers are busy people and they will appreciate your effort to keep your conversation concise.
- Fourth, be courteous and polite. If you get angry, you may lose your credibility.
- Finally, offer to send information you have on the subject so that the staffer can be better informed on how the issue affects the community.

Sample Telephone Script

“My name is *<name>*. I am a constituent, and I work at *<shelter or program>*. I urge *<Representative or Senator's name>* to support the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act before it expires in September.

VAWA has protected millions of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In our community alone, VAWA has been instrumental in providing funding and training for *<list key programs>*. *<Name of your shelter or program>* serves *<number>* of victims each year. It is imperative that Congress reauthorize and enhance existing VAWA programs and create new programs to meet our community's needs.

If you have any questions or if I can provide you with any additional information please feel free to contact me at *<phone number>*. Thank you.”

If you do not know the telephone number for your Senator or Representative call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at **(202) 224-3121**.

ACTION TOOLS: Meeting With Your Legislator



VISITING YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

The most effective way to communicate your message to your legislator is to schedule a meeting to talk face-to-face with your representative or staffer. While these personal visits are the most successful lobbying tool, they also require the greatest amount of planning and time. Here are a few guidelines to help you plan an effective visit.

- **SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT.** Ask to speak to the scheduler when you call the office to set up your appointment. They will know which staff member you need to meet with based on your issue. Call at least a week in advance and make sure they allot you an adequate amount of time for your meeting. **Let the scheduler know you are a constituent.** It is much easier to get an appointment if you or someone in your group is a constituent.
- **EXPLAIN HOW PROPOSED LEGISLATION WILL DIRECTLY AFFECT YOU.** Bring statistics from your local programs, written testimonials, or personal stories from victims. Highlight both the successes your organization has achieved as well as the areas where additional funding and programs are needed. Explain how a cut in funding will affect your organization's services or how a new proposed program will help meet your current unmet need.
- **BRING A WRITTEN STATEMENT.** Prepare a written letter that you can leave with your representative recapping what you mentioned in your visit. Be sure to address why this legislation is important to you, how it will effect your organization's services, and the current unmet needs of your organization. Not only will this letter provide the legislator with a written record of your visit, but writing the letter will help you prepare for your appointment.
- **BE POLITE AND PROFESSIONAL.** Nothing is more counterproductive to a visit than being rude, vulgar, or threatening. Even if you disagree with your representative's position, always be polite. A legislator may make critical remarks about your position or organization. He/she may ask you tough questions. If you do not know the answer, remain calm and tell them that you will get back to them. Always be on time and dress professionally.
- **OFFER TO PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION.** Always offer to provide staffers and representatives with additional information on your issue. NCADV is more than happy to provide you with Fact Sheets on a variety of topics related to domestic violence that you can pass along to your representatives. Also offer to provide more detailed information about your local programs, if necessary.
- **ASK FOR A COMMITMENT.** Your goal is to enlist your legislator's support, so be as specific as possible. Ask direct questions such as "Will you vote for....?" or "Will you support....when it comes to the floor?" to elicit direct answers.
- **BRING A BUSINESS CARD.** Give your legislator your business card at the beginning of meeting. The card should contain all your contact information.
- **FOLLOW UP YOUR MEETING WITH A "THANK YOU" LETTER.** Regardless of how the meeting goes, you should always follow up by thanking the legislator for his/her time and reiterating the points you discussed in the meeting.

ACTION TOOLS: Thanking Your Legislator



Thank You Letters

Not only is it important to contact your representative when an issue arises that concerns you, it is also important to thank your representative for voting a certain way, speaking up on an issue important to you, or attending an event you organized.

Showing a representative your appreciation for his or her effort is a great way to build a relationship and let the legislator know the voting constituency supports his or her decisions.

Follow the tips below when writing a thank you letter:

- If you are a constituent, begin your letter by saying so.
- Make clear what exactly you are thanking your legislator for: supporting a bill, making a speech, attending an event.
- Remind the legislator why this issue is important to the constituency and why his or her support is necessary.
- Now that the legislator has done something for you, offer to do something in return, such as providing resources or educating staffers.
- Be sure to include all your contact information in your letter.

SAMPLE THANK YOU LETTER

September 28, 2000

The Honorable *[full name]*
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative *[last name]*:

On behalf of all the domestic violence advocates and victims in your district and across the country, the Madeira House of Hope deeply thanks you and your colleagues for your overwhelming support and commitment to ending the epidemic of intimate partner violence that affects millions of victims and their children each year. By voting in favor of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA; H.R. 1248) on Tuesday, September 26, 2000, you have brought us one step closer to making this country a safer place for women, children, and families.

For the past five years the programs created under the Violence Against Women Act have had a positive impact on the lives of millions of women. VAWA bolstered the prosecution of child abuse, sexual assault and domestic violence and provided additional resources for law enforcement. It also increased services for victims by funding shelters and sexual assault crisis centers. VAWA also created the National Domestic Violence Hotline, which received its 500,000th call this year. Countless lives have been saved thanks to this landmark piece of legislation.

Your speech in support of the Violence Against Women Act on the House floor conveyed a powerful message to Congress and the rest of the country. Thank you again, for your outstanding leadership and action in the House. We look forward to your continued collaboration as we work toward the passage of the Violence Against Women Act, and we would be happy to provide you will additional resources.

Sincerely,

Sandy Murphy
Executive Director
Madeira House of Hope
(313)555-1234
Smurphy@maderiahouse.org

ACTION TOOLS: Media Outreach

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An important component of lobbying is getting the media tuned into your issues. Gaining media attention helps get your message out to more people and sends an even stronger message to your legislators. Below you will find several tips and samples for how to use the media to your advantage.

Letters to the editor provide citizens the opportunity to comment on articles or editorials appearing in their local papers. Local leaders and politicians read the letters to the editor section to judge community opinion on an issue. Use the following tips and sample letter when drafting your letter.

- Address your letter to the “Letters Editors” and “Dear Editor.”
- Write clearly, concisely, and proofread your work. Limit your letter to 200 words or less.
- Comply with the paper’s formatting rules. If you do not follow the paper’s guidelines, your letter may be disqualified.
- Cite statistics to support your argument, but do not let your message become lost in the numbers.
- Include your name and contact information. Most papers verify this information before printing and will not print anonymous letters.
- Read the letters page daily to ensure your letter is not redundant with other letters.
- If your letter is not published, keep trying. Editors choose stories based on reader interest and if they perceive a strong interest in a topic, they are more likely to run stories on it.

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

August 29, 2004

Letters to the Editor
The Washington Post
1150 15th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20071

Dear Editor:

The front page article on Sunday, August 27, 2000, entitled “Murder in the Making,” told the compelling story of Janice Lancaster’s life and death at the hands of her husband. Unfortunately, Janice’s experience is not unique - a recent study by the National Institute of Justice and the Center for Disease Prevention and Control found that approximately 1.5 million women are raped and/or physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually in the United States. Because more than half of women raped and/or physically assaulted by an intimate partner are victimized multiple times, approximately 4.8 million intimate partner rapes and physical assaults are perpetrated against U.S. women each year.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), landmark bipartisan legislation passed in 1994 and renewed in 2000, is set to expire in September. VAWA has funded police, prosecution and social service efforts to protect domestic violence victims and their children. It has helped judges and law enforcement officials recognize and prevent domestic violence. It has encouraged the arrest of violent abusers and has given prosecutors the tools they need to put batterers behind bars. If Congress does not renew funding for VAWA by the end of this year, we will be turning back the clocks and turning our backs on victims of domestic violence.

Congress only has a few weeks left in which to pass VAWA reauthorization. Sponsorship is not enough. Only passage of VAWA reauthorization can save the lives of women like Janice. On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of families victimized by domestic violence and sexual assault every year in this country, we call on Congress to pass VAWA reauthorization as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Sandy Murphy
Victim Advocate
Madeira House of Hope

ACTION TOOLS: Media Outreach



PRESS RELEASE

The purpose of a press release is to present a summarized version of a story for the media. Any time you have news to report, such as a bill being passed through Congress, you can send out a press release to give reporters an idea for a possible story along with background information.

Follow the tips below when writing a press release:

- Write a concise summary of the story you want covered. Write in journalistic style; use short sentences and paragraphs.
- Try to write objectively and be sure that your facts are completely accurate.
- Include direct quotes from legislators and advocates in your press release.
- When using abbreviations, make sure to indicate what they stand for. Assume that your audience is not familiar with your issue.
- Format: Type on 8-1/2 x 11 letterhead.
- Include a brief heading describing the story, the release date, your contact information, and a blurb on your organization.
- Identify the end of the press release with “###” (a symbol used by the press to indicate the end of a document).
- Be brief – keep it to one page or less.

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



November 7, 2001

Contact: Jill Morris

(202) 745-1211

Campbell Stamps Out Domestic Violence

Washington - An amendment to the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2002, will create a direct avenue for the public to financially contribute to the more than 2000 domestic violence shelters in the United States.

U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell offered an amendment to Treasury Postal Service & General Government Appropriations Bill (H.R. 2590) titled the “Stamp out Domestic Violence Act of 2001.” It calls for the creation of a postal stamp to raise awareness about domestic violence. The proposed domestic violence stamp, similar to the breast cancer stamp, will cost slightly more than the value of the stamp. The amendment was added during conferencing of the bill. The Senate voted 83-15 in favor of the final conference report and the House voted 339-85. The bill is now headed to President Bush’s desk for his signature.

“Domestic violence continues to curse far too many families in America,” said Campbell. “While it is often easier to ignore the pain family members inflict upon each other, all Americans can make an investment in the safety of those who most need assistance by purchasing this new stamp. I can’t think of an easier way to assist more than 2,000 domestic violence shelters, nationwide.”

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence endorsed Campbell’s proposal for this stamp. NCADV Public Policy Director Jill Morris explained that, “Domestic violence shelters in America are constantly struggling for funding. This stamp can provide assistance towards the financial stability of these essential shelters and services.”

###

ACTION TOOLS: Planning a Town Hall Meeting



ATTEND A TOWN HALL MEETING OR ORGANIZE YOUR OWN.

Lawmakers often host town meetings in their districts so that they can hear directly from their constituents. Town meetings are a great time to meet your representative and utilize a public forum to discuss domestic violence issues. If your lawmaker does not currently host town meetings, organize your own meeting.

Below are a few tips to remember when attending or organizing a town hall meeting.

Attending A Meeting:

- **Get On The Invite List.** Write or call your lawmaker and ask if there is an invite list and request to be added to it.
- **Prepare Questions Ahead of Time.** Have specific questions ready or ask for your legislator's position on issues.
- **Get An Answer.** These meetings are a chance for you to

ask direct questions and get straightforward answers. Make sure the legislator answers your question — even if it is not the answer you hoped for.

Organizing Your Own Meeting:

- **Determine Your Issue.** It is important to know exactly what issue you want to address and how you want to present information. Use town meetings to plan community events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October), discuss the relationship between local law enforcement and local programs, address an incident that recently happened in the community, or publicize the need for more services.
- **Schedule.** Pick a convenient date, time, and location. Give the public ample notice. If you work with a local government, they may be able to provide a venue for you to use.
- **Send Invitations.** Send formal invitations to a variety of potential speakers. Consider inviting legislators, local law

enforcement, domestic violence advocates, survivors, and health care professionals. Follow up the invitations with phone calls.

- **Structure The Meeting.** Possibly have a panel discussion around one key speaker (such as a member of Congress). Make sure to leave plenty of time for questions and answers
- **Publicize The Meeting.** Remember, the purpose of your meeting is raise awareness about domestic violence in your community. Make sure everyone in the community is invited. Make flyers and signs to post at grocery stores, libraries, and local shops. Submit a press release or media advisory to local newspapers, TV stations, and radio stations.
- **Work With Others.** A great way to reach a larger audience is to organize the event with other domestic violence organizations. This is a good way to network with other groups and lessen the individual cost of the event.

DECLARE OCTOBER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH!!!

Join our Town Hall Meeting
Monday, October 1, 2004 at 7:00pm

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library
901 G Street NW, Washington DC 20001

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

SPONSORED BY: NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

For More Information: Contact the NCADV Public Policy Office. 202-745-1211 or publicpolicy@ncadv.org

ACTION TOOLS: Inviting Your Legislator to An Event

SAMPLE INVITE LETTER

August 2, 2004

The Honorable *[Full Name]*
The United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20015

Dear Representative *[last name]*:

On behalf of the Madeira House of Hope, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support on domestic violence issues. Your voting record demonstrates your strong commitment to ending all forms of violence against women.

It is my honor to invite you to speak at the opening of the Dumont Domestic Violence Shelter. This shelter is a desperately needed facility that will serve domestic violence victims throughout Hamilton and Butler County.

The opening is scheduled for Saturday, October 9, 2004 at 2:00pm at the Madeira City Hall, Room F. Domestic violence advocates, local law enforcement representatives, and a survivor of domestic violence will be speaking at the event as well. We expect to have more than one hundred community members in attendance.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience to let me know if you can attend. I can be reached by phone (513) 555-5025 or by email: smurphy@mhh.com.

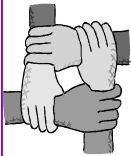
I hope that you will be able to accept this invitation. Thank you in advance for your support!

Sincerely,

Sandy Murphy
Executive Director
Madeira House of Hope

cc: Maria Knowles *[Name of scheduler in Member of Congress' local office]*

ACTION TOOLS: Community Activism



Legislative action involves more than interacting with elected officials. A great way to get your message out to legislators, the media, and the community as a whole is to plan an event focused on domestic violence. You can plan an activity any time of the year, but **October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month**, is a particularly good time to get your message out.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the first Day of Unity observed in October, 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence in order to connect domestic violence advocates from across the country. The Day of Unity soon transformed into a week-long event, when activities related to domestic violence were held at the local, state, and national level. In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed, and in 1989 the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month Commemorative Legislation was passed by the U.S. Congress. Each year legislation is introduced in the House and Senate to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness month. Listed below are some great ideas to help you plan your own Domestic Violence Awareness event.



Ribbon Campaigns

Distribute purple ribbons to clergy, police chiefs, judges, librarians, emergency room personnel, teachers, and others in your community.



Utility Company Campaign

Ask local utility companies to include a message about domestic violence in their monthly bill.



Library Campaigns

Contact public libraries in your area and provide them with materials for a display.



Candlelight Vigil

Organize a candlelight vigil to mourn those who suffered or lost their lives to domestic violence, and raise awareness on intimate partner homicide.



Cell Phone Collection

Collect used cell phones and donate them to your local domestic violence shelter or safe home — visit www.verizonwireless.com/hopeline for more information.



Placemat Campaign

Print paper placemats with information on domestic violence and local service providers, and ask local restaurants to use them in October.



Religious Institute Campaigns

Send a mass mailing to all religious institutions in your area asking them to address the issue from the pulpit or in their bulletins and newsletters.



Chili Cook-Off

Have a chili cooking contest with prizes and entertainment. Invite individuals, teams, and restaurants to compete, with tasting open to the public. The proceeds benefit a local shelter.



Teen Dating Violence Essay Contest

Hold an essay contest about teen dating violence in area schools, with an awards ceremony for the winners.

ACTION TOOLS: Coalition Building



Coalitions

Grassroots organizing involves building relationships with individuals and organizations to create a collective pool of talents and resources. The goal of grassroots organizing is to raise awareness about domestic violence by reaching out to a broader audience. By forming a coalition with like-minded individuals you will broaden your support base, and strengthen your political influence and lobbying force. By working collaboratively, your listening audience will grow. Here are some tips to keep in mind when forming a coalition.



BENEFITS TO FORMING COALITIONS:

- Expands your outreach capacity to communicate your message and gain greater grassroots support.
- Reduces duplication of efforts.
- Allows for more creative, multi-level solutions to complex problems.
- Gives you more clout with legislators when lobbying on behalf of a larger group of constituents and organizations.

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES TO FORMING COALITIONS:

- Agreeing on positions and strategies takes more compromising and time.
- Maintaining cohesion can be difficult because of historical mistrust or conflicting viewpoints.
- Delegating responsibility can be complex since coalition members also have responsibilities as members of their own organizations, etc.
- Ensuring that one member or one organization does not come to dominate the coalition's meetings and strategizing is important.
- Finding meeting times that work around coalition members' schedules can be a serious challenge!

TIPS FOR CREATING A COALITION THAT LASTS:

- Identify the signs of a potential coalition opportunity.
 - If another organization distributes literature that addresses the same issue as your organization.
 - If your interest in an issue brings you into contact with another organization with similar interests.
- Develop a clear vision of the coalition's purpose and what you want each member/organization to contribute.
- Draft a letter to potential coalition members inviting them to participate in an initial organizing meeting. You may want to follow up your letter with a phone call.

CONDUCTING THE FIRST COALITION MEETING

- Prepare an agenda in advance.
- Discuss the coalition's purpose, goals, etc. Get active participation from all members. Use this meeting as a brainstorming session for what needs to get done and when.
- Possibly create subcommittees within the coalition and delegate responsibilities.
- Determine a schedule for future coalition and subcommittee meetings.
- Establish an email listserv for the coalition to facilitate easier communication.



RULES ON FEDERAL LOBBYING FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS



Below is basic information regarding FEDERAL lobbying rules, primarily for 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.

RESTRICTIONS ON 501(c)(3) ORGANIZATIONS

501(c)(3) organizations are groups organized for charitable, educational, scientific or religious purposes. Unlike 501(c)(4) organizations and Political Action Committees (PACs), the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) has imposed limitations on the amount of legislative lobbying that 501(c)(3)s may engage in.

TWO TESTS THAT MEASURE LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

The IRC allows the 501(c)(3) organization to choose between two tests in order to measure the organization's lobbying activities. The two tests are the **Insubstantial Part Test** and the **501(h) Expenditure Test**. Below is an explanation of the two tests.

THE INSUBSTANTIAL PART TEST

The Insubstantial Part Test is the default standard that the IRS uses unless an organization chooses the alternative standard. This test requires that “no substantial part” of a 501(c)(3) organization's activities be “carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation.” This test is somewhat problematic, however, because the IRS and the courts have not yet clearly defined what constitutes as a “substantial part.” In addition, the Insubstantial Part Test does not provide adequate guidelines on what exactly constitutes lobbying. Thus, for most 501(c)(3) organizations, the 501(h) Expenditure Test is a better option because it provides greater certainty.

THE 501(H) EXPENDITURE TEST

The 501(h) Expenditure Test is the alternative standard used by the IRS to measure lobbying activities. This test authorizes a percentage of the organization's budget that may be used on lobbying. Activities that do not generate expenses (such as work completed by volunteers) do not count as lobbying. The 501(h) test is generally preferable because the test provides clearer definitions for what constitutes lobbying and it arguably allows an organization to do more lobbying than the Insubstantial Part Test. (Note that some organizations such as churches are not eligible to use this test).

CHOOSING THE 501(H) TEST:

Should your organization decide to take advantage of the 501(h) test, you must fill out a simple, one-time, one-page form with the IRS — Form 5768, which you can access at www.irs.gov. If your organization does not fill out this form, the IRS will automatically apply the Insubstantial Part Test.

EXPENDITURE LIMITS UNDER THE 501(H) TEST:

The general rule is that organizations with budgets under \$500,000 may spend as much as 20% of their budget on “direct” and “grassroots” lobbying combined. Yet, the organization may only spend a quarter of its overall limit (as much as 5% of its budget) on “grassroots” lobbying. If an organization's budget later increases, the allowable percentage of its expenditures on lobbying declines (though the grassroots lobbying limit is always a quarter of the overall limit).

LOBBYING DEFINED UNDER THE 501(H) TEST

Direct Lobbying v. Grassroots Lobbying: Direct lobbying is when an organization voices its opinion on an issue directly to a legislator (or to the legislator's staff member). Grassroots lobbying is asking the public to communicate the organization's position to the legislator.

Examples of Grassroots Lobbying:

- **Calls to Action:** Communication with the public is considered grassroots lobbying if the organization makes a "call to action" which includes:
 - Urging the public to contact a legislator about the issue
 - Providing a legislator's contact information
 - Providing some means for the public to communicate with a legislator (such as a petition or postcard)
 - Identifying a legislator's position or bearing on the legislation
- **Paid Mass Media Advertisements:** These advertisements are also considered to be grassroots lobbying when they:
 - Appear within two weeks of a legislative vote on highly publicized legislation,
 - Reflect a specific position on the legislation, and either
 - Refer to the legislation, or encourage the public to communicate with legislators about the legislation

Examples of Direct Lobbying:

- **Lobbying to Members:** Because an organization's members are considered to be part of the organization, asking members to contact legislators about legislation is considered direct lobbying. Yet, if the organization contacts its members urging them to encourage the general public to lobby their legislators, it is considered to be grassroots lobbying. According to the IRC, a member of a 501(c)(3) organization is a person who contributes more than a nominal amount of money *or* time to an organization.
- **Working on Ballot Measures:** Efforts to influence the public's position on a ballot measure (*e.g.*, referendum) is also considered to be direct lobbying.

Exceptions to the Definition: What is Not Considered Lobbying Under 501(h):

- Nonpartisan analysis, study or research
- Advocacy materials that were not produced originally to encourage grassroots lobbying
- Testifying or providing assistance in response to a written request from a legislative body
- Discussing issues in a broad sense without referring to specific legislation

TRACKING AND REPORTING LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

Regardless of which standard your organization chooses, every 501(c)(3) organization is required to track its lobbying activities. Those organizations using the 501(h) test must keep a record of its total expenditures on direct and grassroots lobbying. Under the Insubstantial Part Test, an organization must record the cost of its lobbying in addition to providing a summary of its lobbying activities. The lobbying expenditures that an organization must record include salaries for staff time spent lobbying, costs specific to a lobbying activity, and a percentage of overhead costs.

501(C)(4) ORGANIZATIONS: Unrestricted Lobbying

Organizations designated as 501(c)(4) organizations (civic, action or social welfare organizations) have no restrictions on lobbying as long as it is related to the purpose of the organization.

See: SMUCKER, BOB. **THE NONPROFIT LOBBYING GUIDE** (2d ed. 2001). <http://www.independentsector.org/clpi/>
Kinsley, Elizabeth. Harmon, Gail. Pomeranz, John. Guinane, Kay. **E-Advocacy For Non Profits: The Law of Lobbying and Election Related Activity on the Net.** www.allianceforjustice.org/images/collection_images/eadvocacy.pdf

RULES ON ALL LOBBYING WITH GOVERNMENT FUNDS FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

In 2002 Congress passed an amendment further restricting lobbying practices of organizations receiving federal funding. Below are some basic guidelines for the new rules, along with examples of how the rules will apply.

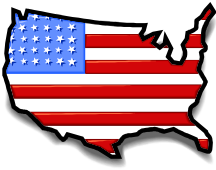
- The new regulation states that no federal funding shall be used to lobby **ANY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT**. The new rule prohibits the use of federal funds when directly or indirectly lobbying federal agencies, state legislatures, state agencies, and local governments. The original rule applied only to Congress.
- The new regulation also forbids the use of federal funds when lobbying for or against legislation and **WHEN LOBBYING FOR OR AGAINST POLICY ACTIONS ENACTED BY THE GOVERNMENT**. While the original rule applied only to legislation, the new rule applies to legislation as well as regulations and policy mandates not enacted directly through legislation.
- There are **exceptions** to this amendment that allow for federal funding to be used when influencing policymaking.
- If an activity is **expressly authorized in the purpose section of VAWA**, grantees can continue to use funds without violating the new amendment. Example — a STOP grant funded entity participating on a domestic violence task force or state coordinating council is not prohibited from participating in meaningful policy discussions, because Congress expressly authorized doing such work under the STOP statute.
- When it is unclear whether an activity is expressly authorized or not, check with the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) for approval. Fines for violating the anti-lobbying provision range from \$10,000 to \$100,000 per each individual occurrence of lobbying activity.

This information has been graciously provided by Rob (Roberta) Valente, Domestic Violence Policy and Advocacy Consultant. Please contact NCADV for information at (202) 745-1211.

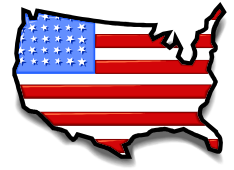
Resources

The following is a list of government and domestic violence resources. For the latest updated domestic violence facts and statistics, please visit the public policy section of the NCADV Website.

www.ncadv.org



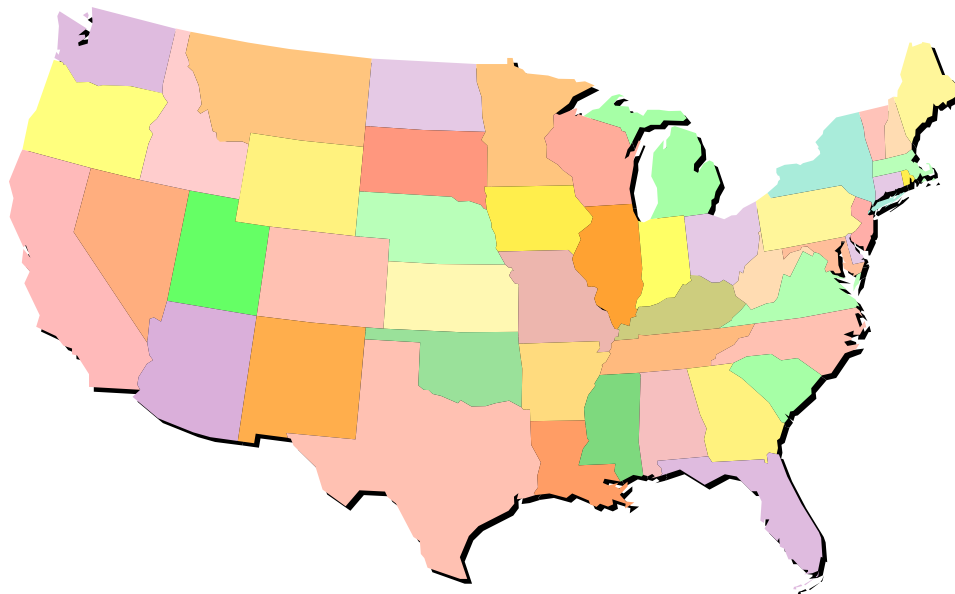
CONTACT INFORMATION FOR STATE LEGISLATURES



State	Official State Website	Online Legislature
Alabama:	http://www.state.al.us/2k1/	http://www.legislature.state.al.us/
Alaska:	http://www.state.ak.us/	http://www.legis.state.ak.us/
Arizona:	http://www.state.az.us/	http://www.azleg.state.az.us/
Arkansas:	http://www.state.ar.us/	http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/
California:	http://www.state.ca.us/	http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/
Colorado:	http://www.state.co.us/	http://www.state.co.us
Connecticut:	http://www.state.ct.us/	http://www.cga.state.ct.us/default.htm
Delaware:	http://www.delaware.gov/	http://www.legis.state.de.us
District of Columbia:	http://www.washingtondc.gov/	
Florida:	http://www.state.fl.us/	http://www.leg.state.fl.us
Georgia:	http://www.state.ga.us/	http://www.legis.state.ga.us/
Hawaii:	http://www.state.hi.us/	http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/
Idaho:	http://www.state.id.us/	http://www2.state.id.us/legislat/legislat.html
Illinois:	http://www.state.il.us/	http://www.state.il.us/state/legis/
Indiana:	http://www.state.in.us/	http://www.in.gov/legislative/
Iowa:	http://www.state.ia.us/	http://www.legis.state.ia.us/
Kansas:	http://www.accesskansas.org/g/	http://www.accesskansas.org/legislative/index.cgi
Kentucky:	http://www.kydirect.net/	http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/home.htm
Louisiana:	http://www.state.la.us/	http://www.legis.state.la.us/
Maine:	http://www.state.me.us/	http://janus.state.me.us/legis/
Maryland:	http://www.state.md.us/	http://mlis.state.md.us/
Massachusetts:	http://www.state.ma.us/	http://www.state.ma.us/legis/legis.htm
Michigan:	http://www.michigan.gov/	http://michiganlegislature.org/
Minnesota:	http://www.state.mn.us/	http://www.leg.state.mn.us/
Mississippi:	http://www.state.ms.us/	http://www.ls.state.ms.us/
Missouri:	http://www.state.mo.us/	http://www.moga.state.mo.us/
Montana:	http://www.state.mt.us/	http://leg.state.mt.us/
Nebraska:	http://www.state.ne.us/	http://www.unicam.state.ne.us/
Nevada:	http://silver.state.nv.us/	http://www.leg.state.nv.us/

CONTACT INFORMATION CONTINUED

New Hampshire:	http://www.state.nh.us/	http://gencourt.state.nh.us/ie/
New Jersey:	http://www.state.nj.us/	http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/
New Mexico:	http://www.state.nm.us/	http://legis.state.nm.us/
New York:	http://www.state.ny.us/	http://assembly.state.ny.us/
North Carolina:	http://www.ncgov.com/	http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/
North Dakota:	http://discovernd.com/	http://www.state.nd.us/lr/
Ohio:	http://www.state.oh.us/	http://www.state.oh.us/ohio/legislat.htm
Oklahoma:	http://www.state.ok.us/	http://www.lsb.state.ok.us/
Oregon:	http://www.state.or.us/	http://www.leg.state.or.us/
Pennsylvania:	http://www.state.pa.us/	http://www.legis.state.pa.us/
Rhode Island:	http://www.state.ri.us/	http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/
South Carolina:	http://www.myscgov.com/	http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/
South Dakota:	http://www.state.sd.us/	http://legis.state.sd.us/index.cfm
Tennessee:	http://www.state.tn.us/	http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/
Texas:	http://www.state.tx.us/	http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/
Utah:	http://www.utah.gov/	http://www.le.state.ut.us/
Vermont:	http://www.state.vt.us/	http://www.leg.state.vt.us
Virginia:	http://www.state.va.us/	http://legis.state.va.us
Washington:	http://access.wa.gov/	http://www.leg.wa.gov
West Virginia:	http://www.state.wv.us/	http://www.legis.state.wv.us/
Wisconsin:	http://www.wisconsin.gov/	http://www.legis.state.wi.us/
Wyoming:	http://www.state.wy.us/	http://legisweb.state.wy.us/





STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITION CONTACT INFORMATION



COALITION	HOTLINE	WEBSITE
Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence	1-800-650-6522	www.acadv.org
Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	907-586-3650	www.andvsa.org
Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence	1-800-782-6400	www.azcadv.org
Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence	1-800-269-4668	www.domesticpeace.com
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence	1-800-524-4765	www.cpedv.org
Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence	1-888-788-7091	www.ccadv.org
Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence	1-888-774-2900	www.ctcadv.org
Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence	1-800-701-0456	www.dcadv.org
District of Columbia Coalition Against Domestic Violence	202-299-1181	www.dccadv.org
Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence	1-800-500-1119	www.fcadv.org
Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence	1-800-33-HAVEN	www.gcadv.org
Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence	808-832-9316	www.hscadv.org
Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence	1-888-293-6118	www.idvsa.org
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence	217-789-2830	www.ilcadv.org
Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence	1-800-332-7385	www.violenceresource.org
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence	1-800-942-0333	www.icadv.org
Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence	1-888-END-ABUSE	www.kcsdv.org
Kentucky Domestic Violence Association	502-695-2444	www.kdva.org
Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence	225-752-1296	www.lcadv.org
Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence	207-941-1194	www.mcedv.org
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence	1-800-MD-HELPS	www.mnadv.org
Jane Doe, Inc. - MCASADV	1-877-785-2020	www.janedoe.org
Michigan Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence	517-347-7000	www.mcadsv.org
Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women	615-646-0994	www.mcbw.org
Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence	601-981-9196	www.mcadv.org

STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITION CONTACT INFORMATION *continued*

COALITION	HOTLINE	WEBSITE
Missouri Coalition Against Domestic Violence	573-634-4161	www.mocadv.org
Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence	888-404-7794	www.mcadsv.com
Nebraska Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Coalition	402-476-6256	www.ndvsac.org
Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence	1-800-500-1556	www.nnadv.org
New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence	1-800-852-3388	www.newbeginningsnh.org
New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women	1-800-572-SAFE	www.njcbw.org
New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence	1-800-773-3645	www.nmcadv.org
New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence	1-800-942-6906	www.nyscadv.org
North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence	888-232-9124	www.nccadv.org
North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services	888-255-6240	www.ndcaws.org
Ohio Domestic Violence Network	1-800-934-9840	www.odvn.org
Oklahoma Coalition Against D V & Sexual Assault	405-524-0700	www.ocadvsa.org
Oregon Coalition Against Domestic Violence & S A	1-888-235-5333	www.ocadv.com
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence	800-932-4632	www.pcadv.org
Coordinadora Paz para la Mujer	787-721-7676	www.pazparalamujer.org
Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence	401-467-9940	www.ricadv.org
South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault	800-260-9293	www.sccadvasa.org
South Dakota Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault	800-572-9196	www.southdakotacoalition.org
Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence	1-800-289-9018	www.tcadv.org
Texas Council on Family Violence	1-800-799-SAFE	www.tcfv.org
Utah Domestic Violence Advisory Council	801-521-5544	www.udvac.org
Vermont Network Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault	1-800-228-7395	www.vtnetwork.org
Virginians Against Domestic Violence	1-800-838-8238	www.vadv.org
Women's Coalition of St. Croix	340-773-9272	www.wcstx.com
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence	1-800-562-6025	www.wscadv.org
West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence	304-965-3552	www.wvcadv.org
Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence	608-255-0539	www.wcadv.org
Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault	1-800-990-3877	www.users.qwest.net/~wyomingcoalition



HELPFUL WEBSITES



Helpful legislative websites:

Legislative information:	http://thomas.loc.gov
How our laws are made:	http://thomas.loc.gov/home/holam.txt
House Website:	http://www.house.gov
Senate Website:	http://www.senate.gov
White House Website:	http://whitehouse.gov

Judiciary website:

Supreme Court:	http://www.supremecourtus.gov/
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Helpful organization websites:

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence <http://www.ncadv.org>

ABA Commission on Domestic Violence:	http://www.abanet.org/domviol/
AFL-CIO:	http://www.aflcio.org/
Alliance for Justice:	http://www.afj.org/
American Association of University Women:	http://www.aauw.org/
American Civil Liberties Union:	http://www.aclu.org/
American College of Nurse Midwives:	http://www.acnm.org/
American College of OB/GYNs:	http://www.acog.org/
American Friends Service Committee:	http://www.afsc.org/
American Medical Student Association:	http://www.amsa.org/
American Medical Women's Association:	http://www.amwa-doc.org/
American Nurses Association:	http://www.nursingworld.org/
American Psychiatric Association:	http://www.psych.org/
American Psychological Association:	http://www.apa.org/
American Public Health Association:	http://www.apha.org/
Americans for Democratic Action:	http://adaction.org/
Amnesty International:	http://www.amnesty.org/
Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on DV	http://www.apiahf.org/apidvinstitute/
Battered Women's Justice Project:	http://www.vaw.umn.edu/BWJP/
Break the Cycle:	http://www.break-the-cycle.org
Catholics for a Free Choice:	http://www.cath4choice.org/
Center for Advancement of Public Policy:	http://www.caponline.org/

HELPFUL WEBSITES

Center for Domestic Violence Prevention:	http://www.teenrelationships.org
Center for Women Policy Studies:	http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities	http://www.cbpp.org/
Child Welfare League of America:	http://www.cwla.org/
Children's Defense Fund:	http://www.childrensdefense.org/
Church Women United:	http://www.churchwomen.org/
Corporate Alliance to End Domestic Violence:	http://www.caepv.org
Dads and Daughters:	http://www.dadsanddaughters.org
The Empower Program:	http://www.empowered.org/
Family Violence Prevention Fund:	http://endabuse.org/
Feminist Majority Foundation:	http://www.feminist.org/
Feminists for Life:	http://www.feministsforlife.org/
Girls, Inc.:	http://www.girlsinc.org/
Gloucester Men Against Domestic Abuse:	http://www.strongmendontbully.com
Health Resource Center on DV:	http://fvpf.org/programs/healthcare/
Human Rights Campaign:	http://www.hrc.org/
Institute on DV in the A. Am. Community:	http://dvinstitute.org/
Institute for Women's Policy Research:	http://www.iwpr.org/
Jewish Women International:	http://www.jewishwomen.org/
League of Women Voters:	http://www.lwv.org/
Legal Momentum	http://www.legalmomentum.org/
MALDEF:	http://www.maldef.org/
McAuley Institute:	http://www.mcauley.org/
Men Overcoming Violence:	http://www.menovercomingviolence.org
Men Stopping Violence:	http://www.menstoppingviolence.org
Michael Bolton Charities, Inc.:	http://www.michaelboltoncharities.com
Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse:	http://www.mincava.umn.edu/
NAACP:	http://www.naACP.org/
National Alliance to End Homelessness:	http://www.naeh.org/
National Association of Social Workers:	http://www.naswdc.org/
National Black Women's Health Project:	http://www.nbwhp.org/
National Center for Victims of Crime:	http://www.nvc.org/
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence:	http://www.ncadv.org/
National Coalition for the Homeless:	http://www.nationalhomeless.org/
National Council of Catholic Women:	http://www.nccw.org/

HELPFUL WEBSITES

National Council of Jewish Women:	http://www.ncjw.org/
National Council of La Raza:	http://www.nclr.org/
National Council of Negro Women:	http://www.ncrw.org/digest/ncnw.htm
National Education Association:	http://www.nea.org/
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force:	http://www.nglft.org/
National Immigration Forum:	http://www.immigrationforum.org/
Nat. Latino Alliance for the Elimination of DV:	http://www.dvalianza.org/facts.htm
Nat. Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty:	http://www.nlchp.org/
National Low Income Housing Coalition:	http://www.nlihc.org/
National Network to End Domestic Violence:	http://www.nnedv.org/
National Organization for Victim Assistance:	http://www.try-nova.org/
National Partnership for Women and Families:	http://www.nationalpartnership.org/
National Sexual Violence Resource Center:	http://www.nsvrc.org/
National Women's Health Network:	http://www.nwhn.org/
National Women's Law Center:	http://www.nwlc.org/
National Women's Political Caucus:	http://www.nwpc.org/
NOW: National Organization for Women:	http://www.now.org/
Office for Victims of Crime:	http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/
Older Women's League:	http://www.owl-national.org/
Organization of Chinese Americans:	http://www.ocanatl.org/
Peace at Home:	http://www.peaceathome.org
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape:	http://www.pcar.org/
Planned Parenthood:	http://www3.plannedparenthood.org/
Quiet Storm Project:	http://www.thequietstormproject.com
Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network:	http://www.rainn.org/
Safe Horizon:	http://www.safehorizon.org/
Safe Place in Austin, Texas:	http://www.austin-safeplace.org
Violence Against Women Office:	http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/
Violence Policy Center:	http://www.vpc.org/
WEAVE:	http://www.weaveinc.org/
Women's Policy, Inc.:	http://www.womenspolicy.org/
Women's Research and Education Institute:	http://www.wrei.org/
Young Women's Christian Association:	http://www.ywca.org/



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- Juley Fulcher - former NCADV Public Policy Director and current Director of Break the Cycle in Washington, DC
- Allison Randall - former NCADV staff member and current Public Policy Director at the National Network to End Domestic Violence
- Robin Runge - former NCADV staff member and current American Bar Association, Commission on Domestic Violence Director
- NCADV Interns - Anjum Gupta, Juliana Sanchez, Tina Hossain

Second Edition

- Jill Morris - NCADV Public Policy Director
- Jen Winkelman - NCADV Public Policy Associate, Legislative Action Guide Designer
- NCADV Interns - Lauryn Fraas, Charity Phipps, Lara Pukatch, Sarah Royalty, Laura Geldermann

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