



## Public Policy Office

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*The Public Policy Office of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), located in the nation's capital, is a national leader in the effort to develop and influence federal and state legislation that positively affects the lives of domestic violence victims and their children. NCADV works closely with domestic violence victims and advocates at the local, state and national levels to identify the issues facing both domestic violence victims and their children, and the people who serve them. We also work to develop a national legislative agenda to address these issues and to represent before elected officials the over 2,000 NCADV members and coalition partners.*

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Public Policy Office at NCADV is a member of the National Taskforce to End Domestic and Sexual Violence. The Policy Office has had many significant legislative accomplishments, most notably the passage of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA).

#### Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

- \* VAWA brings together the criminal justice, social service and public health systems in an effort to intervene and prevent domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking in our communities. NCADV's Public Policy Office was instrumental in VAWA's initial passage in 1994, and subsequent reauthorizations in 2000 and 2005.

#### Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)

- \* FVPSA is the single largest funding source of emergency services for domestic violence victims and their children. It funds life-saving emergency shelters, crisis lines, counseling, and victim assistance. NCADV's Public Policy Office led the movement to pass FVPSA in 1984 and in subsequent reauthorizations.

### GET INVOLVED

#### Legislative Updates

- ◆ The Policy Office of NCADV is dedicated to providing up-to-date information with regard to federal legislation on victim's issues. In addition to regular updates, they also send out Legislative Action Alerts via email to notify the community on particular legislative issues or actions that need immediate attention. *If you wish to be **added to our email listserv to receive future announcements**, please call (202)-745-1211 or email at [publicpolicy@ncadv.org](mailto:publicpolicy@ncadv.org).*

#### Legislative Action Events

- ◆ Each spring, domestic violence advocates from around the country travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in visits with their Members of Congress. The advocates discuss the importance of funding for their local programs and network with each other throughout the events. ***Our next Legislative Action Day will be held July 22, 2008.*** Save the date! Visit [www.ncadv.org](http://www.ncadv.org) for more information on the event.

### PUBLIC POLICY INITIATIVES

#### Developing Anti-Violence Legislation

- √ **Educates Congress** on domestic violence issues.
- √ Develops a legislative agenda that effectively responds to **victim's needs**.
- √ Assists in *developing and drafting* of federal legislation and appropriations.

#### Advancing Partnerships

- √ NCADV Public Policy Office **partners with local, state, and national organizations** to *research, develop and advance legislation* that assists and promotes the safety, well-being, and independence of domestic violence survivors and their children.

#### Publications

- √ The Public Policy Office of NCADV **compiles topic and state-specific domestic violence fact sheets** for *community education and general distribution*. These publications are available at [www.ncadv.org](http://www.ncadv.org).
- √ *Topic-specific fact sheets* include domestic violence statistics, sexual assault, dating violence, housing, children, economic abuse, substance abuse, workplace, and many more!
- √ **The Legislative Action Guide** is a comprehensive manual for domestic violence advocates which includes a guide to the legislative process and Federal government, and sample letters that advocates may use to contact their elected officials and local media. It also contains ideas for community action events for local programs.