

# National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

## Legislative Update and Action Alert

February 18, 2003

\*\*\*\*\*Please Forward\*\*\*\*\*

In this issue...

JOIN US FOR LOBBY DAY!

Administration Downgrades Office on Violence Against Women

Congress Passes FY '03 Congressional Budget;

ACTION ALERT: Federal and State Budget Crises Leave Victims Without Services

108th Congress Opens with Record 14 Women Senators, 59 Congresswomen

New 108th Congressional Leaders

House TANF Bill Neglects the Needs of the Poor

Another Round for Housing

Good News for Battered Immigrants

Armed Forces Domestic Security Act

Sexual Assault and DNA Evidence

IACP Lends Assistance to Victim Services

A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women

State Updates

ARIZONA

CALIFORNIA

ILLINOIS

MASSACHUSETTS

MARYLAND

NEW YORK

OREGON

PENNSYLVANIA

TEXAS

International Updates

CANADA

UNITED KINGDOM

NCADV's Newest Staff

## JOIN US FOR LOBBY DAY!

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence is celebrating our 25th Anniversary with NCADV Board of Advisors Co-Chair Michael Bolton and Lifetime Television with a national week of lobbying in Washington, DC March 4 – 6, 2003 called “Uniting Our Voices: Speaking Together to Speak Out.” State budgets around the country are being slashed. Come to Washington to tell your Representatives and Senators about the effect of these cuts on your programs. Elected officials in Washington know that states are experiencing some hardship, but come and tell your story and put a face on that hardship. Come and tell them the Federal government needs to step in and help.

The focus of our 5th annual lobby day is to address continued funding for programs and to spearhead a campaign to highlight work that men are doing around the country around gender equity and non-violence and promote the involvement of men in the movement against domestic violence. The week's events will be culminated by “International Women's Day” on March 8, 2003. On Tuesday, March 4th, we will start with a training on “How to Lobby” at 7:30pm (location to be announced). On Wednesday, March 5th, we will begin in 902 Hart Senate Office Building at 8:30am with a breakfast and press conference to demonstrate the need for full funding of Violence Against Women Act Programs and to promote the involvement of men in the fight to end violence against women. Michael Bolton and various Members of Congress will speak out against domestic violence. After the press conference, Lobby Day attendees will spend the day on the Hill meeting with their Senators and Representatives. The day will finish with a reception for Members of Congress and our Lobby Day participants. The reception, sponsored by Lifetime Television, will be held in the East Hall of Union Station and will include entertainment provided by Michael Bolton and other celebrities. In honor of International Women's Day (March 8th), anti-domestic violence and sexual assault posters from around the world will be displayed at the reception. Finally, beginning at 9:30am on Thursday, March 6th, there will be a congressional briefing with panels of advocates, celebrities -- including Michael Bolton, Nancy McKeon, and former NFL quarterback Don McPherson -- and other high profile individuals involved in the fight to end domestic violence and sexual assault. We hope that you will join us this year as we celebrate 25 years of NCADV.

For more information or to register for lobby day, please visit our website at <http://www.ncadv.org> or contact Reva Gupta at 202-745-1211 or [rgupta@ncadv.org](mailto:rgupta@ncadv.org)

### Administration Downgrades Office on Violence Against Women

The Department of Justice (DOJ) announced its plan to keep the Violence Against Women Office (VAWO) within the Office of Justice Programs, thereby ignoring Congress and weakening efforts to eliminate violence against women. Senator Joe Biden (DE), one of the lead sponsors of the Violence Against Women Office Act, released a statement of discontent with the Administration's decision, “I find it quite ironic that the very agency charged with enforcing the laws and protecting women is willfully ignoring the law and hindering efforts to prevent violence against women.”

Last year Congress passed, and the President signed, the DOJ Reauthorization Act (PL 107-273), which included the VAWO Act, creating a permanent, separate and distinct Office on Violence Against Women with a presidentially appointed and Senate confirmed director who would report

directly to the Attorney General. In addition, the statute also provides that the VAWO office will be responsible for important policy functions such as: acting as a liaison and representative with other branches of the Federal and State government including the judicial branch; developing policy, protocols, and guidelines to carry out the substantive provisions of VAWA; and providing information, technical assistance, coordination, and support to other DOJ components, government agencies, and grantees.

The creation of this separate office was aimed at elevating VAWO from its current standing in a subdivision of DOJ in order to ensure the high priority and visibility of its responsibilities of overseeing implementation of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). By failing to create this office, the Administration and DOJ are flouting the law and neglecting their leadership role in ending violence against women.

Please call your Senators and House Members today and demand that they hold the DOJ accountable to uphold Congressional intent by creating a separate and distinct Office on Violence Against Women positioned to carry out the strong and important leadership role of the elimination of violence against women. Your officials can be reached by calling the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3221.

For more information please contact Krista Holub at kholub@ncadvor by phone at (202) 745-1211.

Congress Passes FY '03 Congressional Budget;  
President Requests Cuts to VAWA Funding for FY '04

As you know, Congress failed to pass most fiscal year 2003 appropriations bills before the end of the 107th Congressional session. Only the Defense and Military Construction appropriations bills were passed. The remaining appropriations bills were combined into a large omnibus bill, H.Rpt. 108-10, passed by the House and Senate on 2/13/03.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) received a small boost in the FY '03 Congressional budget. The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) was increased by \$2.7 million to \$127.2 million total and the National Domestic Violence Hotline was increased from \$2 million to \$2.6 million. Unfortunately, appropriations for FVPSA remain \$47.8 million less than was authorized in VAWA, Rape Prevention/Education received only \$44.2 million of the authorized \$80 million, and Transitional Housing, authorized at \$25 million, remained completely unfunded. VAWA programs administered by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) received the same funding they were given in the FY '02 Congressional Budget.

The cap on the Victims of Crime Act Fund (VOCA) was raised to \$600 million. This is not enough to prevent shelters, rape crisis centers, and programs for other victims of crime from taking cuts to their VOCA funding. The cuts are a result of a change to the way VOCA funds are distributed, and NCADV, the National Network to End Domestic Violence, the National Center for Victims of Crime, and others had been asking Congress to raise the cap to a "hold harmless" level to protect services. We are not yet sure if the \$600 million figure includes a \$50 million

contingency fund. If the fund is included, only \$550 million will actually be available for states. Many of you responded to our action alert and called your Members of Congress to demand an increase to the VOCA cap. We are hopeful that, largely in response to your many calls, the \$50 million will not be included. Members have also responded to your calls by contacting us or other domestic violence groups to discuss raising the cap in FY '04.

Unfortunately, the President's Budget Request for FY '04 actually cuts VAWA funding by \$19.6 million or 3.44%. VAWA programs administered by DOJ each received cuts ranging from a few hundred thousand to a few million dollars. In the HHS budget, \$3.2 million was cut from FVPSA and \$.4 million was added to the Hotline. Rape Prevention/Education and the Centers for Disease Control's Community Initiatives program were left at FY '03 levels. The President requested the VOCA cap be raised to \$625 million.

NCADV is calling on Congress to restore the money cut by the President's Budget when they prepare their FY '04 Congressional Budget. We continue to ask Congress to keep its promise to battered women and children by appropriating the amount authorized in VAWA 2000. It remains imperative that Congress raise the VOCA cap to a level that will prevent serious cuts to services for victims of crime.

We urge you to read and respond to the following Action Alert and help us increase desperately needed funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs!

For fact sheets, sample letters, talking points, charts or more information, contact Allison Randall in NCADV's Public Policy Office at arandall@ncadv.org or 202-745-1211.

#### **ACTION ALERT: Federal and State Budget Crises Leave Victims Without Services**

The future of domestic violence programs across the country is uncertain as the federal and state governments pull financial support. Services for legal aid, sexual assault victim assistance, domestic abuse response teams, shelters, outreach programs, and advocate trainings are facing enormous budget cuts-some on the verge of shutting down due to the lack of funding. The federal reductions in Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding and Family Violence Prevention and Services Grants (FVPSA), due to formula changes and distribution problems; compounded by similar funding reductions on the state level, leave victims with no where to turn. The stories are told over and over, from program to program, state to state.

In last years' state budget, the Iowa legislature slashed all funding for domestic violence and sexual assault direct service programs. Advocates at the Domestic Violence Intervention Program in Iowa City question what message this sends to the 1200 to 1400 victims it serves each year. Budget cuts have meant restructuring and reducing services. There are no longer funds available for outreach counseling, which is especially important for this 5 county program that serves a large rural community. Other programs in Iowa have suffered additional devastating losses; the domestic violence program in Knoxville has closed its shelter and now only provides outreach service. The Jefferson County shelter was forced to shut its doors completely.

In Florida, as well as other states, victims are now alone in facing often-confusing and frightening court proceedings, in which they must testify, in the presence of the perpetrator, to

the abuse. The Orange County Center Against Domestic Violence, operated by the Harbor House, is a program that counsels and assists women through these court proceedings. However, the postponement of federal grants has meant the layoffs of four of its nine person staff, including its only advocate fluent in Spanish and its staff attorney.

From Utah to Maine, victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and rape are being denied critical services, as programs are being forced to close down or are in jeopardy. For the second time over the past year the Utah state government has diverted millions of dollars from the Crime Victims Reparations Fund to cover budget deficits in the general fund, thereby reducing the funds available to victim service agencies, such as the Rape Recovery Center. The Rape Crisis Assistance and Prevention Program located in Waterville, Maine lost three of its four staff due to a lack of federal funding and insufficient state funds. This is just a snapshot of the losses domestic violence and sexual assault programs are facing throughout the country.

Your help is needed to halt further cuts to victim services!

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

In the face of massive federal budget cuts that in turn trickle down to county and city budget crises, those who suffer the real losses must be remembered. While the numbers are tallied in millions of dollars, individual lives are the true cost.

We urge you to send us personal stories of the impact domestic violence programs are making and descriptions of the financial crises in your own community or organization. Your stories are essential to our ability to increase funding for domestic violence programs! Please send brief stories to [kholub@ncadv.org](mailto:kholub@ncadv.org) or fax them to (202) 745-0088.

If your Senators or Representatives are on the Appropriations Committee, we encourage you to call them and tell them to support full funding for the Violence Against Women Act in the FY '04 Congressional Budget. Urge them to raise the VOCA cap to \$685 million.

To find out if they are on the committee, visit <http://www.senate.gov/~appropriations/memlist.htm> and <http://www.house.gov/appropriations/members.htm>. Contact information for your Members of Congress can be found at <http://www.senate.gov>, <http://www.house.gov> and by calling the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121.

For fact sheets or more information on appropriations, please contact Allison Randall in NCADV's Public Policy Office at [arandall@ncadv.org](mailto:arandall@ncadv.org) or at (202) 745- 1211.

108th Congress Opens with Record 14 Women Senators, 59 Congresswomen  
Frank Murkowski (R-AK) appointed his daughter, Lisa Murkowski, to finish his term after being In December the total number of women U.S. Senators rose to a new record of 14 when Senator elected governor of Alaska. Eleven women ran for Senate seats in the 2002 midterm elections, tying the previous record in 1992. The current 14 women Senators are also composed of 12 incumbents and one newly elected Congresswoman, Elizabeth Dole (R-NC).

Newly elected Senators:

Elizabeth Dole (R-NC)

Incumbents:

Barbara Boxer (D-CA); Maria Cantwell (D-WA); Susan Collins (R-ME); Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY); Diane Feinstein (D-CA); Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX); Mary Landrieu (D-LA); Blanche Lincoln (D-AR); Barbara Mikulski (D-MD); Patty Murray (D-WA); Olympia Snowe (R-ME); Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)

Both Senators from Maine will chair standing committees in the 108th Congress. Senator Susan Collins will chair the Governmental Affairs Committee overseeing homeland security. Senator Olympia Snowe will chair the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere and Fisheries.

A total of 124 women ran for seats in the US House of Representatives, just over the previous record for women candidates - 120 in 1996. Of the 124 female candidates (including the late Congresswoman Patsy Mink (D-HI), 59 will be part of the 108th Congress. Patsy Mink (D-HI), a strong leader on progressive and women's issues, passed away September 28, 2002 but was elected posthumously. A special election to fill her vacant seat in the 108th Congress was held January 4, 2003. The number of women in the House is the same as in the 107th Congress, with a total of seven new women entering the House - five Republicans and two Democrats. The 59 Congresswomen include 38 Democrats and 21 Republicans. Three delegates with limited voting abilities, Eleanor Holmes-Norton (D-DC), Donna Christian-Green (D-VI), and Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU) were also elected in November.

Newly Elected Representatives:

Marsha Blackburn (R-TN); Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL); Katherine Harris (R-FL); Denise Majette (D-GA); Candice Miller (R-MI); Marilyn Musgrave (R-CO); Linda Sanchez (D-CA);

Incumbents:

Tammy Baldwin (D-WI); Shelley Berkley (D-NV); Judy Biggert (R-IL); Mary Bono (R-CA); Corinne Brown (D-FL); Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV); Lois Capps (D-CA); Julia Carson (D-IN); Barbara Cubin (R-WY); Jo Ann Davis (R-VA); Susan Davis (D-CA); Diana DeGette (D-CO); Rosa DeLauro (D-CT); Jennifer Dunn (R-WA); JoAnn Emerson (R-MO); Anna Eshoo (D-CA); Kay Granger (R-TX); Jane Harman (D-CA); Melissa Hart (R-PA); Darlene Hooley (D-OR); Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX); Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX); Nancy Johnson (R-CT); Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH); Marcy Kaptur (D-OH); Sue Kelly (R-NY); Carolyn Kilpatrick (D-MI); Barbara Lee (D-CA); Zoe Lofgren (D-CA); Nita Lowey (D-NY); Carolyn Maloney (D-NY); Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY); Karen McCarthy (D-MO); Betty McCollum (D-MN); Juanita Millender McDonald (D-CA); Sue Myrick (R-NC); Grace Napolitano (D-CA); Anne Northrup (R-KY); Nancy Pelosi (D-CA); Deborah Pryce (R-OH); Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA); Ileana

Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL); Loretta Sanchez (D-CA); Jan Schakowsky (D-IL); Louise Slaughter (D-NY); Hilda Solis (D-CA); Ellen Tauscher (D-CA); Nydia Velazquez (D-NY); Maxine Walters (D-CA); Diane Watson (D-CA); Heather Wilson (R-NM) ; Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)

NCADV wants to congratulate and welcome all the newly elected members of the Senate and the House of Representatives. We also look forward to working with all incumbent Senators and Representatives in the 108th Congress.

For more information on contacting your Senator or Representative, please visit <http://www.senate.gov> and <http://www.house.gov>.

#### New 108th Congressional Leaders

We would like to welcome back Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert (R-IL) and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) and congratulate the two new Congressional leaders, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN).

Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), who was recently elected House Minority Leader, will become the highest-ranking woman in the history of the US Congress. Pelosi has served California's 8th Congressional District, which includes most of the City of San Francisco, continuously in the House since first being elected in 1987. Among her many committee assignments, Pelosi is a senior member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, and serves on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. In her committee functions, Pelosi focused on issues such as education, minimum wage, workplace safety, and AIDS treatment and prevention. Pelosi secured an additional \$500,000 in the Fiscal year 2002 supplemental appropriations for the National Domestic Violence Hotline. Though the appropriation was later line-item vetoed by the President, we appreciate the Congresswomen's leadership.

Senator Bill Frist (R-TN) was elected Senate majority leader on Monday, December 23, 2002 in the 108th Congress. Frist, the Senate's only physician, has shown leadership on medical and health issues, working in a bipartisan manner on bioterrorism readiness, Medicare reform, covering the uninsured, medical liability reform, and patient safety. Frist has long served on Senate committees with oversight on science and technology issues. He was also one of the founders of the Senate Science and Technology Caucus. We look forward to working with Senators Frist and Daschle, and Representatives Pelosi and Hastert.

#### House TANF Bill Neglects the Needs of the Poor

House Republicans passed a welfare bill, H.R. 4 that is irresponsible with respect to the needs of the nation's poor. The final vote of 230 to 192 followed party lines with only eleven Democrats voting for the bill and two Republicans voting against it.

Bypassing the committee process, the Republican leadership took their bill directly to the House floor for a vote, without a single hearing or mark-up in the two key committees with jurisdiction, the Ways and Means Committee and the Education and the Workforce Committee. H.R. 4 is essentially the same bill that was passed by the House last year, "The Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Promotion Act of 2002." The bill reflects the Administration's priorities:

increased work hours; marriage promotion; little additional funding for child care; full-family sanctions; no improvement in immigrants' access to benefits; and no assistance for those with barriers, such as domestic violence or sexual assault, to work. It is a disaster for poor families and creates an unfunded mandate for the states to impose increasing requirements on recipients. It ignores the economic realities of this year and the needs of poor women and children.

Although H.R. 4 passed in the House, it is important that House members express their support for a fairer income support system in order to make a powerful statement in support of poor families when the House and Senate conference on the final TANF bill. Keeping in the spirit of the late Patsy Mink's (D-HI) effort to provide real opportunities to families in poverty, Representative Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) and Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA) introduced The Patsy Mink Memorial TANF Reauthorization Act, as a substitute for the Administration's bill. The Mink Bill adds poverty reduction as a purpose of TANF. It provides states with a poverty reduction bonus, increases the block grant by inflation so it retains its value, maintains current work requirements, removes the cap on the number of recipients who can pursue vocational education, lifts the time limit on education to give recipients an opportunity to earn a degree, and restores eligibility to immigrants. In addition, it provides \$20 billion for the Child Care Development Block Grant, which could then provide childcare to an additional 2 million children. It also protects victims of domestic violence from penalties by requiring states to address barriers to work, and by providing for trained caseworkers to screen recipients.

Encourage your Representatives to support the Mink Bill as an alternative to H.R. 4. Contact your representatives by calling the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 or visiting <http://www.house.gov>.

Debate is still underway in the Senate about TANF reauthorization; however, it is expected that the Senate Finance Committee will re-introduce a bi-partisan bill similar to last year's Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids (WORK) Act. Various other Senators are also working on progressive legislation for this session. Senator Jon Corzine (D-NJ) and Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) are expected to introduce the "Chance to Succeed Act." Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) is drafting a bill for poverty reduction, and Senator Evan Bayh (D-IN) will be addressing policies concerning fatherhood. We anticipate Senator Russell Feingold (D-WI) to come out with a bill on civil rights, and Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) is also working on flexibility for childcare, education and training.

Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) is expected to re-introduce in the Senate the "Secure and Healthy Families Act," which is a less intrusive alternative to the bills focusing on marriage promotion. The bill focuses on strengthening families primarily through programs designed to enhance income and economic security, and help families to truly escape poverty. The Murray bill also offers important protections and safeguards. Unlike the Administration's bill, children would not be penalized for their parent's non-compliance, teen parents would be allowed to complete their education, and parents unable to find a viable childcare option would not be sanctioned. In addition, it extends the Family Violence Option (FVO) to all 50 states, which permits states to address domestic and sexual violence among recipients and authorizes funding for caseworker training and the development and dissemination of best practices for addressing this roadblock to economic security.

We encourage you to urge your Senators to support a welfare bill that will meet the needs of domestic violence victims, treat low income Americans with dignity and respect, and work for economic justice. Please take a few minutes to contact your Senators and demand a TANF bill that includes appropriate options for low-income family child-care needs, a Family Violence Option, access to education and training, and does not promote marriage as a means for economic stability. For information on how to contact your Senators, call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 or visit <http://www.senate.gov>.

For more information contact Krista Holub at [kholub@ncadv.org](mailto:kholub@ncadv.org) or Allison Randall at [arandall@ncadv.org](mailto:arandall@ncadv.org) by calling (202) 745-1211.

#### Another Round for Housing

With the new session underway we anticipate the re-introduction of more progressive housing legislation and look to you for continued assistance in moving these bills and amendments through the legislature.

If you have not already, we encourage you to endorse the establishment of a National Housing Trust Fund, a campaign headed by the National Low-Income Housing Coalition. We all know of the incredible need for accessible low-income permanent housing and this is a great opportunity to make it happen! The National Housing Trust Fund would produce, rehabilitate, and preserve affordable housing through the permanent dedication of a source of public revenue. The National Housing Trust Fund Campaign has made monumental strides over the past year and a half. Bills were introduced in both the House (H.R. 2349, introduced by Representative Bernard Sanders [VT]) and the Senate (S. 1248, introduced by Senator John Kerry [MA]) in the last session and 200 members in the House and 29 in the Senate signed on as cosponsors. Two votes were won on the Trust Fund in the House Financial Services committee, and the bill was nearly brought before the full House for a vote. More than 3850 organizations, municipalities, elected officials and newspaper editorials across the country have endorsed the establishment of a National Housing Trust Fund. To sign on or for more information, please visit the National Housing Trust Fund at <http://www.nhtf.org/>.

In regards to other housing legislation, we expect re-introduction by Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), of a bill that creates a grant program intended to help meet the transitional housing needs of domestic violence and sexual assault victims (formerly H.R. 3752). Although the details of this bill are still being worked out, last year's version provided funding for project based transitional housing and rental assistance including financial assistance for security deposit, first month's rent, or ongoing rental assistance.

Last year, Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA) introduced an amendment important to protecting victims from unfair evictions due to the crimes of their abusers. This legislation would prohibit landlords from evicting victims of domestic violence under the federal "one-strike" policy for the crimes of their batterer, thus shielding victims from unwarranted evictions for calling the police, getting a restraining order, or being assaulted. We look forward to Representative Lee's support on this issue again this session and re-introduction of the amendment.

As you are aware the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) included a modest \$25 million for transitional housing assistance. These funds were designed to provide direct assistance for housing-related costs, including rent, security deposits, and utilities, and continuous support services, such as childcare, transportation and counseling. Due to last minute negotiations, the transitional housing program was only authorized for one year. A reauthorization of the program was included this Congress in the House version of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), H.R. 14. We anticipate it will also be included when CAPTA is introduced in the senate.

For fact sheets, talking points, a sample letter, please contact Krista Holub at [kholub@ncadv.org](mailto:kholub@ncadv.org) or by calling (202) 745-1211. For more information, please contact Allison Randall at [arandall@ncadv.org](mailto:arandall@ncadv.org) (202) 745- 1211.

#### Good News for Battered Immigrants

Late on February 13, 2003, Congress passed the final omnibus appropriations bill for fiscal year 2003. This will now be forwarded to the White House to receive the President's signature. The bill includes a technical correction, which guarantees all immigrants who are "qualified aliens" access to public and assisted housing. The amendment extends the right to public and assisted housing to all battered immigrants protected by VAWA and to Cuban and Haitian entrants. The full implications of this amendment are that battered immigrants protected by VAWA and Cuban and Haitian entrants can:

- 1) Apply for public housing, section 8 housing, remain in transitional housing for longer than 2 years, and access other public and assisted housing benefits;
- 2) Remove abusive citizen and lawful permanent resident spouses or parents and remain in the housing units that they shared with their abusive U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident;
- 3) Apply to add their name to the public or assisted housing unit, be listed as head of household and/or have the unit transferred from their abuser's name when the abuser has been removed from the unit;
- 4) Apply for an emergency transfer to another unit away from the abuser for increased safety;
- 5) Not be subject to pro-rated costs based on a mixed family status household;

Include any children included in their VAWA self-petitioning case as household members in the public an assisted housing unit.

Reprinted and adapted from NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund

#### Armed Forces Domestic Security Act

The Armed Forces Domestic Security Act (H.R. 5590) was presented to the President on November 21, 2002, and was signed into law on December 2, 2002. The House (October 15, 2002) and the Senate (November 14, 2002) passed H.R. 5590, which provides for the

enforcement and effectiveness of civilian orders of protection on military installations - basically extending full-faith and credit provisions to the military.

The bill amends current military personnel law (10 U.S.C. chapter 80) to close a legal loophole that does not require protective orders issued by civilian courts, such as a restraining order against a batterer, to be enforced on military facilities. The bill adds a new provision that ensures a civilian order of protection shall have the same force and effect on a military installation as it does within the jurisdiction of the court that issued the order. Additionally, the Secretary of Defense is required to prescribe regulations to carry out this modification.

The previous law prevented civilian court orders from having any force on domestic military installations. As a result, victims of violence did not have the protection of restraining orders and other such tools while living on military bases. H.R. 5590 revised title 10, United States Code, to include military facilities within civilian court jurisdictions for the purpose of such orders. The legislation was in response to several domestic violence homicides at Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

For more information please contact Juley Fulcher, in NCADV's Public Policy office, at [jfulcher@ncadv.org](mailto:jfulcher@ncadv.org) or 202-745-1211.

#### Sexual Assault and DNA Evidence

Two new sexual assault bills have been introduced in the Senate, both of which would improve the lives of many women. On January 13, 2003, Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH) introduced S. 149 into the Senate, the "Rape Kits and DNA Evidence Backlog Elimination Act 2003". This would reauthorize the "DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act 2000". The 2003 Act aims to improve the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases with DNA evidence. Included in the bill, is a bill introduced by Senator Crapo (R-ID) in the 107th Congress, which would amend VAWA 2000 to allow money to be used to provide legal assistance to victims of dating violence as well as domestic violence. The bill has been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

On January 14, 2003, Senator Biden (D-DE) introduced into the Senate the "DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2003", S.152. The aim of this Act is to assess the extent of the backlog in DNA analysis of rape kit samples, and to improve investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases with DNA evidence. The bill has been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Senator Biden's Office is currently making plans to host a Press Conference on this bill during NCADV's National Lobby Week, March 3 – 7, 2003.

#### IACP Lends Assistance to Victim Services

U.S. law enforcement agencies interested in enhancing their response to victims of crime can now receive free technical assistance from The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). In collaboration with the Office for Victims of Crime, the IACP is conducting a follow-up project to the "1999 Summit on Victims of Crime," which identified effective strategies to achieve justice for crime victims. Through this latest project, "Improving Police-Based Victims Services," the IACP has surveyed law enforcement agencies throughout the United States on the

current status of their victims' services and what is needed to improve these services. A selected number of those surveyed agencies and other interested police agencies have received or will be selected to receive on-site technical assistance to improve their victim services. In addition to this assistance, IACP has sponsored four regional symposia on police-based victims services.

Each symposium provided training and offered strategies to implement or improve services to victims. The IACP has also developed a clearinghouse of information on law enforcement-based victim service practices created from the data of the 2001 Police-Based Victim Services Survey. The clearinghouse can connect departments in need of improvement with agencies that can serve as model programs for victim services.

Much like the project for “Improving Police-Based Victims Services,” the IACP also sponsors a “Police Response to Violence Against Women” Project. With funding from the Department of Justice's Violence Against Women Office (VAWO), this project studies issues of violence against women in order to assist law enforcement. The project has created useful policies, materials, trainings, studies and surveys. For example, IACP produced a policy to develop procedures for handling police officer-perpetrated domestic violence. It also provides technical assistance and guidance to agencies interested in establishing a proactive, preventative approach to domestic violence. These policies and technical assistance are especially relevant since studies have found 40 percent of police officer families experience domestic violence, (Feminist Majority Foundation, and The National Center for Women and Policing).

The Police Response to Violence Against Women Project also developed a guidebook for police officers to explain federal laws for the interstate enforcement of protective orders, trainings for university and college police administrators on issues of sexual assault and stalking, and surveys including Police Response to Human Trafficking and Firearms and Domestic Violence. IACP continues to hold regional workshops on interstate protection orders, incorporating interactive training techniques to help officers understand their verification and enforcement responsibilities. In addition, IACP is studying the design and operation of domestic violence fatality review teams at both state and local levels in order to design protocols to guide law enforcement's participation.

To apply for funding, access the clearinghouse, or receive other assistance please visit <http://www.theiacp.org/research/#victims> or contact Nancy Turner at [Turnern@theiacp.org](mailto:Turnern@theiacp.org) or 800-843-4227 ext. 216; or Alison Vaughan at [vaughana@theiacp.org](mailto:vaughana@theiacp.org) or 800-843-4227 ext. 255. Reprinted and adapted with permission from <http://www.theiacp.org/research/#Services>.

#### A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women

“As pastors of the Catholic Church in the United States, we state as clearly and strongly as we can that violence against women, inside or outside the home, is never justified. Violence in any form—physical, sexual, psychological, or verbal—is sinful; often, it is a crime as well. We have called for a moral revolution to replace a culture of violence. We acknowledge that violence has many forms, many causes, and many victims—men as well as women.”

The full body of U.S. Catholic bishops, at its November 2002 General Meeting, approved the revised tenth anniversary edition, *When I Call for Help: A Pastoral Response to Domestic*

Violence Against Women, with a 249-2 vote. It is an update of their 1992 statement, When I Call for Help: A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women, and a response to their concern that misinterpretation of Bible passages on marriage can contribute to a person's (usually a woman's) suffering in a domestic violence situation. The document describes the nature of domestic violence, why men batter, and why women remain in abusive situations. The new pastoral statement also addresses the effects of domestic violence on children. It explains how abusers often wrongly use Scripture to support their behavior and offers practical suggestions on how to help abused women. The updated document incorporates new statistics, resources, and information about domestic violence. It also notes that women of color, immigrant women and women in rural communities may face particular obstacles that make it difficult for them to seek the help and support they need.

When I Call for Help explains that, “no person is expected to stay in an abusive marriage.” The bishops encourage Catholics who have divorced because of domestic violence to seek an annulment, which declares that a marriage is invalid and allows people to remarry in the Catholic Church. The bishops' document also holds out hope for restoring the relationship, but indicates the church's first two priorities must be the safety of the victim and her children and holding the abuser accountable. The bishops encourage abusers to admit the problem is their own and not their partner's, as well as to seek help.

When I Call for Help includes practical suggestions on how clergy, ministers, and other members of the church can help victims of domestic abuse, preach to their congregations about domestic violence, and counsel abusive men and couples who are experiencing violence. The statement lists three goals for intervention by church ministers: safety for the victim and children; accountability for the abuser; and restoration of the relationship (if possible), or mourning over the loss of the relationship. It includes websites, videos, and publications for further information.

When I Call for Help: A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women is available through the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' website at <http://www.nccbuscc.org/>. More information about the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence is available online at <http://www.cpsdv.org/>

Adapted from 'News Flash' <http://www.fvpf.org/newsflash> an online newsletter of the Family Violence Prevention Fund.

## State Updates

### ARIZONA

State Representative, Linda Binder (R-Lake Havasu City) wants to force doctors and nurses who treat rape victims to also help them prevent pregnancy. The proposal would require that licensed medical professionals provide “medically accurate information” about emergency contraception to any woman of reproductive age who says she has been raped. The measure, SB 1087, has yet to be considered by the State Senate Health Committee.

However, one area of contention in the proposal is a provision that says that medical professionals must immediately provide the “morning-after pill” on the request of the patient. The morning-after-pill contains a slightly higher dosage of hormones than ordinary birth control

pills; this blocks the release of the egg from the ovaries, thereby preventing conception. The consternation is caused by the fact that religious groups deem the pill as effectively a form of abortion. Cathi Herrod, lobbyist for the Center for Arizona Policy said she is sympathetic to what Rep. Binder wants to do in regard to protection of the victim but argues that it is wrong to force medical professionals to violate their own religious beliefs. Binder's legislation does provide an escape clause, of sorts. It says a doctor or nurse working at a hospital is alleviated of the legal responsibility to provide emergency contraception if the hospital has an arrangement with another organization that provides such services. This would allow hospitals that do not want to provide morning-after pills to pass on their obligations.

Sources Include "Capitol Media Services", January 25, 2003. Author Howard Fischer.

## CALIFORNIA

The 2001 Remedy for Imprisoned Battered Women Act, has proved successful in its first outing before the courts. This Act, which was sponsored by Senators Karnette and Polanco and passed on February 23, 2001 gives women inmates convicted prior to 1992 the chance to prove that the outcome of their trial would have been different had evidence of "battered women syndrome" been permitted. In October 2002, Marva Wallace became the first woman to be released under the new law. She had spent 17 years in prison for murdering her abusive husband. Two weeks before her release, Governor Davis had refused a parole board recommendation to release her. Sue Osthoff of the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women said that explaining to juries the effects of abuse is critical to showing that a woman acted in self-defense. Critics label the strategy as the "abuse excuse" - a blank check that allows women to kill without being held responsible for their actions.

The California law is the first of its kind in the country, allowing battered women to be released pending a new trial. At least 600 women are in prison in California for allegedly killing abusive husbands; around 100 would be eligible for release under the new law. However, only women convicted of first or second-degree murder can claim relief under the law; women who pled guilty to manslaughter are without recourse.

Sources include "The Washington Post," Friday November 22, 2002. Reporter, Kimberly Edds.

In the November elections, voters passed the Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2002, a ballot measure designed to improve California's affordable housing units and improve conditions at domestic violence and homeless shelters. This measure is set to provide \$390 million to fund the construction of new emergency centers and permanent housing for battered women, homeless seniors, the mentally ill and veterans. It aims to provide approximately 31,000 new domestic violence and homeless shelter beds. The measure was supported by a broad-based coalition of battered women's advocates, business leaders, elected officials including Governor Davis, homeless advocates, and others. The measure was passed by a margin of 57.5% - 42.5%.

Reprinted and adapted from 'News Flash' ( <http://www.fvpf.org/newsflash>) anonline newsletter of the Family Violence Prevention fund.

In January, the California Supreme Court ruled that should a woman change her mind and say “No” in the middle of what had begun as consensual sex, the man involved is guilty of rape. This decision, in the case of *People v John Z .*, provides that a man in California may be charged with rape if he does not immediately stop the act as soon as a woman says “No.” Wendy Murphy, a visiting scholar at Harvard University, told ABCNEWS' Good Morning America that the decision is about the principles of personal autonomy and bodily integrity and their importance. The ruling fills a grey area and forces men to listen to women. It clarifies 18 years of conflicting California case law and nullifies a lower court's 1985 decision that classified such “post penetration rapes” as assaults rather than rapes. Justice Ming Chin, for the majority, wrote “A withdrawal of consent effectively nullifies any earlier consent and subjects the male to forcible rape charges if he persists in what has become non-consensual intercourse.” The justices did accept that problems could arise from “the possibly equivocal nature” of withdrawing consent during a sex act. However, rape counselors say that any law that gets partners to listen more carefully is a good thing. California is one of 6 state courts to have ruled that sex, after consent is withdrawn, is rape. The other states to have ruled in this manner are Minnesota, Connecticut, South Dakota, Maine and Alaska.

Sources include 'ABCNEWS.com'

## ILLINOIS

Tabitha Pollock, who had been convicted of first-degree murder in the death of her daughter, had her conviction unanimously overturned by the Illinois Supreme Court on October 18, 2002. Pollock's boyfriend murdered the child while Pollock was sleeping, but prosecutors held Pollock liable for the murder under a negligence theory, saying that she ought to have known of the potential danger even if she did not actually know of it. The Illinois Lower Courts agreed with this argument, despite evidence that Pollock had called the police and attempted to revive her daughter, and sentenced Pollock to 36 years in prison. However, the Supreme Court found that decision had no basis in law. Although parents are responsible for the deaths of their children where they witnessed or knew of the danger, this conviction went one step further, a step too far in the eyes of the court. Judge Hanson said Tabitha Pollock had “no intention to kill.” Two of the justices in the case, Justices Thomas and Garman, said they would allow a retrial requiring proof that Pollock had knowledge of the life threatening abuse. The state has asked the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision and adopt the position of these justices. No decision on this has yet been made.

Reprinted and adapted from 'News Flash' ( <http://www.fvpf.org/newsflash> ) an online newsletter of the Family Violence Prevention fund.

## MASSACHUSETTS

A Plymouth Superior Court judge has ruled that newspaper reporter Sophia Apossos, who alleged she was fired by Memorial Press Group after taking a day off to testify in a domestic violence claim she had brought against her husband, can sue her former employer. Judge Mitchell J. Sikora Jr. ruled, in what some legal observers are describing as a precedent-setting decision, that Apossos could bring the lawsuit claiming that she was fired for leaving work to attend the trial, which involved a matter of public policy. “A victim should not have to seek physical safety at the cost of her employment,” said the judge. Jennifer Brown, co-counsel for

Apessos and Legal Director for the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund, said that the opinion, “acknowledges the importance of workplace protection for battered women” and “addresses the very real threat posed by the increased financial dependence of a battered woman on her abuser resulting from the loss of a job.”

Sources include “The Patriot Ledger” (Quincy, MA), November 1, 2002. Reporter John Estrella.

The Women's Resource Center of Lawrence, which had been threatened with a \$500 fine for non-disclosure of documents, won, at the end of January, a stay of the sanction pending appeal. This came after 2500 women from across the country had volunteered to go to jail on behalf of the center, so as to protect the privacy of a 16 year old rape victim's counseling sessions. The stay means that no fine need be paid, no-one need do jail time and no documents need be handed over.

The story first hit headlines when the Center called for 500 women to volunteer to spend one night in jail. Wendy Murphy, the Center's lawyer had argued that this suggestion was more consistent with the doctrine of equal protection under the law than the fine threatened by the court. “We're seeing a terrible trend of privacy rights violations all across the country,” Murphy says. “The courts do not even realize this is happening to victims and their families, but they need to know that people are walking away from the justice system because of it.” Massachusetts's law says that counseling records from rape crisis centers are privileged unless the defendant can make a strong case that the information is necessary to their defense. The court had initially ruled in this case that the defendant was entitled to the documents. According to Murphy, there is a real double standard when it comes to confidentiality for female rape victims. “One could hardly imagine a defense attorney asking for counseling records for a male mugging victim. The practice of using court orders to discover information about the victims' private lives is used almost exclusively against female victims of sex crimes.”

Reproduced and adapted, with permission, from 'Womensenews' ( <http://www.womensenews.org> ). For more information see <http://www.stopfamilyviolence.org>.

## MARYLAND

Maryland has overwhelmingly passed a constitutional amendment that will help protect victims of domestic violence. The statewide ballot proposition was included in the November 2002 General Elections. The amendment, supported by 87% of voters, will allow District Court commissioners to issue temporary orders of protection after hours when the courts are closed, such as in the evenings, on weekends, and on holidays. This changes the old law whereby judges could only issue protection orders when the courts were open. Under the new law, temporary orders of protection issued by Court commissioners are effective until a judge can hold a hearing during regular business hours.

Reprinted and adapted from 'News Flash' ( <http://www.fvpf.org/newsflash> ) an online newsletter of the Family Violence Prevention fund.

## NEW YORK

Two new state laws that address domestic violence came into effect at the beginning of the year. The first is a gun law that bars people from obtaining a permit for a rifle or a shotgun if they have been convicted of domestic violence, convicted of assault within the last ten years, or convicted of any three misdemeanors. People with certain outstanding orders of protection issued against them also will be barred, reports the New York Times .

The second new law forbids emergency shelters for battered women from turning people away only because they lack official documentation of abuse, such as a police report or order of protection. It also expands the definition of domestic violence to include common-law and dating couples with access to each other's residences.

Reprinted and adapted from “Speaking Up”, a publication of the Family Violence Prevention Fund.

## OREGON

Basketball fans in Portland have been boycotting Trail Blazers' games because several players have been arrested, one of them on suspicion of domestic abuse. Ruben Patterson, a registered sex offender, and Trail Blazer Forward, was arrested after his wife, Shannon Patterson, reported to police that he had assaulted her. The charges were dismissed when Shannon asked prosecutors to drop the case. Reports from The Washington Post say that one fan posted a billboard in downtown Portland, reading, “we need a team that can beat L.A., not women and the justice system.” Ruben Patterson was fined \$100,000 by the Trail Blazers organization, with respect to the incident.

Reprinted and adapted from 'News Flash' ( <http://www.fvpf.org/newsflash> ) an online newsletter of the Family Violence Prevention fund.

A survey investigating the prevalence of domestic violence among women on parole or probation has found that abuse is a “common theme” among women who have been convicted of crimes. Vita Fugate-Brownlee, a domestic violence survivor, and Jean Daugherty, Director of Women's Services at a Eugene residential center to help parolees re-enter the community, conducted this survey in Lane County. 85% of women surveyed said they had experienced abuse; more than half said they had committed a crime to please their abusive partners. 40% confessed to a crime that had been committed by their partner, and 22% said they chose to go to jail to “avoid a partner's violence.”

Reprinted and adapted from 'News Flash' ( <http://www.fvpf.org/newsflash> ) an online newsletter of the Family Violence Prevention fund.

## PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Governor Mark Schweiker has signed into law the “Hate Crimes Act.” This will enhance punishments for crimes of violence against people because of their “ancestry, mental or physical disability, gender or gender identity.” It will also enhance punishment for those who commit violent crime against a person because of sexual orientation. The new law, which adds to the State's Ethnic Intimidation Law marks the first time that gay and lesbian people have received specific statewide legal protection in Pennsylvania. “The Pennsylvania Legislature has

sent a strong message to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Pennsylvanians that bias crime will not be tolerated,” said Seth Kilbourn, National Field Director for the Human Rights Campaign. The bill, which took effect immediately, adds to the law that already mandates penalties for crimes committed against victims because of their race, color, religion or national origin.

Reprinted and adapted from the “National Center for Victims of Crime News and Policy Update.” ( [mail@ncvc.org](mailto:mail@ncvc.org))

## TEXAS

A District Court in Lubbock sentenced a man to 2 ½ years in prison for owning guns while under a protective order, on Friday January 24, 2003. The Supreme Court refused to hear arguments that Timothy Emerson was allowed to keep his guns under the Second Amendment right to “keep and bear arms.” As you may know, the case background is that Emerson, a physician, and his wife were finalizing their divorce when he assaulted her with a handgun, and was subsequently prosecuted for possessing the gun while subject to a court-imposed protective order. The Northern District of Texas ruled that the Second Amendment conferred a personal right to bear arms, and therefore found that the federal law banning a person subject to a domestic violence protection order from buying a gun was unconstitutional. The case was therefore dismissed. An appeal to the fifth circuit reversed this decision and found that the federal law, which prohibits possession of a firearm by anyone subject to a court order instructing them not to harass or threaten a current/former intimate partner and/or a current/former intimate partner's child, (18 USC § 922(g)(8)) was not unconstitutional. When the Supreme Court refused to hear it, the case went back to the District Court. Emerson's lawyer, David Guinn argued that Emerson should not be punished for owning guns that were legal once his divorce was complete. The District Court ruled that it was constitutionally acceptable to restrict the Second Amendment Right where it was reasonable to do so: restricting the possession of guns by a person under a protective order was deemed to be such a reasonable case. Emerson plans to appeal the sentence.

Sources include The Associated Press, January 24, 2003

## International Updates

### CANADA

The White Ribbon Campaign to End Violence Against Women released results of a national Environics poll, showing that the majority of Canadian men think more should be done by both governments and Canadian men to stop violence against women. White Ribbon Co-Chair Jean Bernard says "This poll is a call to action for both men and governments across the country," ( <http://www.whiteribbon.com/press/default.asp?aID=872>). Results of the poll indicate that 66% of Canadian men feel that men themselves are not doing enough to address the problem of violence against women in Canada. The poll also shows that 58% of Canadian men feel governments are not doing enough to address the problem. In addition, the poll shows that Canadian men support a comprehensive approach to addressing this societal issue. For example, the vast majority of Canadian men support tough enforcement of existing laws. More specifically, three quarters of Canadian men polled (75%) say rigorously enforcing existing laws should be a high priority. Alternately, only three percent say it should be a low priority. More

than two thirds of Canadian men questioned (69%) say that programs targeted towards school-aged boys about ending violence toward women and promoting healthy relationships should be a high priority. A majority of Canadian men polled (62%) say that raising the awareness of men regarding the need to take a stand against violence towards women should be a high priority. The Canadian men involved in the polling also recognized the priority of increasing funding to women's groups and facilities dealing with violence against women, with 45% saying it is a high priority and 42% saying it is a medium priority.

For more information please see the The White Ribbon Campaign at <http://www.whiteribbon.com>. The White Ribbon Campaign has been in existence for more than a decade and is active in 30 countries, making it the largest worldwide effort of men working to end violence against women.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

The Home Office announced a shift in policy that will allow recently married immigrants who flee abusive relationships to stay in the United Kingdom, reports the PA News. Previously, foreign nationals allowed to live in the UK because of marriage had to live with their partners for a probationary period. Victims of domestic violence who left their partners to escape abuse had no rights to remain in the country unless they were able to prove with a court conviction that their relationships had ended as a result of domestic violence. Beginning this month, victims of domestic violence will be able to use medical evidence, police reports, and social services or women's refuge reports to support their claims of domestic violence if they do not have an injunction or court conviction.

Reprinted and adapted from 'News Flash' (<http://www.fvvpf.org/newsflash>), an online newsletter of the Family Violence Prevention Fund

#### NCADV's Newest Staff

Please welcome NCADV's newest Public Policy Office staff:

Erin Brodeur is currently a junior at Hanover College in southeastern Indiana majoring in Sociology. Erin is interning through the Washington Center Internship Program for the Spring Semester of 2003. She will be with NCADV until mid-May. After graduation in 2004 Erin intends to obtain a Master's Degree in Social Work. Interning with the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence is Erin's first exposure to policy work. In the past, she has worked in various social service organizations such as the Brookwood Retirement Community and the Madison Youth Shelter in Hanover Indiana. Erin has a great interest in improving the conditions of people's lives and hopes to become more educated on policy implementation during her time in Washington DC.

Leanne Cowen is a recent graduate of the University of Oxford in England where she studied law. She took an active interest in domestic violence whilst at law school, studying the subject and where the law falls short of adequate protection. Originally from Glasgow in Scotland, Leanne spent a semester interning on Capitol Hill before joining NCADV this spring as a full time intern. In the future, Leanne hopes to continue working with women's issues in the public policy field.

Krista Holub is joining NCADV as an intern for her studies in the School of Social Work at the University of Iowa. Krista has worked in the domestic violence field providing direct services at the Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) in Iowa City, Iowa. Her experiences working with survivors at DVIP have been the inspiration for her interest in policy and legislation surrounding domestic violence issues. After graduation in May, she plans to continue her social work career in policy and international human rights.

This edition of the NCADV Public Policy Legislative Update was prepared by

Leanne Cowen, Maria Del Rosario-Martin, Juley Fulcher, Krista Holub, Reva Gupta, and Allison Randall.

Please pass this publication along to interested persons. If you would like to reprint any or all of the contents of this publication in other print or electronic publications, please notify us by sending us an email at [policy@ncadv.org](mailto:policy@ncadv.org) and provide us with a print or electronic copy of that publication. We ask that you attribute to NCADV the portion you are redistributing, with the following, "Reprinted from the Legislative Update of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence ( <http://www.ncadv.org>)."

To track or read any of the legislation described above, or to locate others, you can log onto the Congressional web site at <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

To support this publication and all of the work of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, please visit our website at <http://www.ncadv.org> or call Sylvia Baca at 303-839-1852 x104 for information about how to become a member of NCADV.

NCADV publishes this legislative update every two months to inform domestic violence and women's advocates around the country about federal legislation and governmental initiatives related to violence against women. If you have information you would like to share with us, or if you have any questions or comments, please contact the Public Policy Office of NCADV at:

1532 16th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20036

Phone: (202) 745-1211

Fax: (202) 745-0088

E-mail: [policy@ncadv.org](mailto:policy@ncadv.org)

Web Site: <http://www.ncadv.org>

To support this publication and all of the work of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, please visit [become a member of NCADV](#). For more information contact Gretchen Eckroate at 303-839-1852 x 104. [Click here to become a member of NCADV](#).

1532 16th Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20036 Phone: (202) 745-1211 Fax: (202) 745-0088  
[policy@ncadv.org](mailto:policy@ncadv.org)