

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 8, 2009

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski  
The Honorable Richard C. Shelby, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and  
Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin, Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby:


Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking affect at least one in four American women and impact the lives of many families and individuals. For more than 20 years, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) has provided safe haven to victims fleeing domestic violence. Since 1994, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) has helped victims and families in our communities and made substantial progress toward ending domestic and sexual violence. We urge you to fully fund FVPSA and VAWA programs in the Department of Health and Human Services at \$295 million and the Department of Justice at \$683 million in the fiscal year (FY) 2010 appropriations bills.

According to the National Census of Domestic Violence Services, on one day in 2008, 60,799 adults and children sought support from local domestic violence programs. Due to a lack of resources, 8,927 requests for services were unable to be met. Victims of stalking and dating violence nationwide remain significantly underserved, and there are still large parts of the country that do not have sufficient resources to provide basic services to victims of sexual violence.

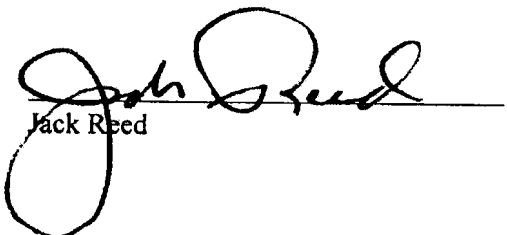
The FVPSA and VAWA programs in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education (LHHS-ED) and Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) appropriations bills support law enforcement, courts, rape crisis centers, shelters, children's services, prevention programs, community outreach, and other state and local programs that provide services for victims and families. Since VAWA was enacted in 1994, the rates of non-fatal and fatal domestic violence have decreased, more victims have felt confident to come forward to report these crimes and seek services, and states have passed over 600 laws to combat these crimes. In addition to saving lives, VAWA saved nearly \$14.8 billion in net averted social costs in its first six years alone.

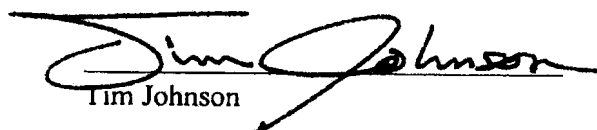
However, FVPSA and VAWA's continued progress has been threatened by federal, state, and local budget cuts. In FY 2008, \$2.1 million was cut from FVPSA, and \$12 million was cut from vital VAWA programs, further reducing communities' ability to meet the increase in demand for services. Historically, there has been a significant increase in victims requesting services during harsh economic times. We urge you to continue to invest in the progress and promise of FVPSA and VAWA by fully funding the programs in both the LHHS-ED and CJS appropriations bills. Fully funding FVPSA and VAWA is a critical investment in our communities that will save lives, rebuild families, and prevent future crimes. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
Patrick Leahy

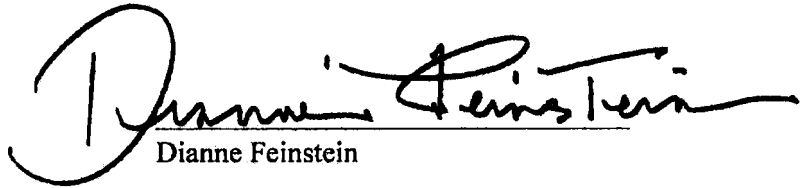
  
Mike Crapo

  
Jack Reed

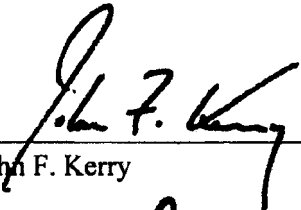
  
Tim Johnson



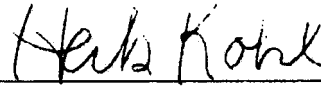
Carl Levin



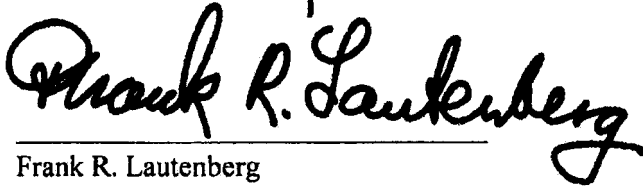
Dianne Feinstein



John F. Kerry



Herb Kohl



Frank R. Lautenberg



Russell D. Feingold



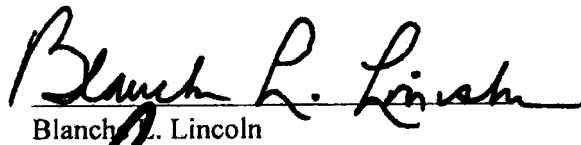
John D. Rockefeller, IV



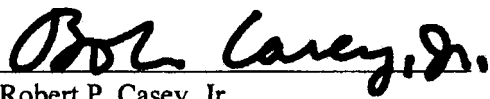
Pat Roberts



Edward E. Kaufman



Blanchette Lincoln



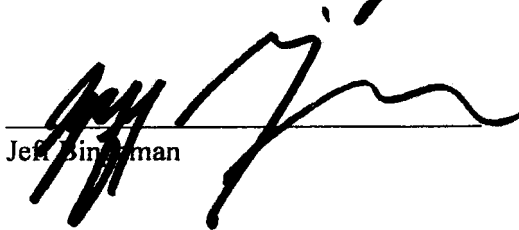
Robert P. Casey, Jr.



Edward M. Kennedy



Sheldon Whitehouse



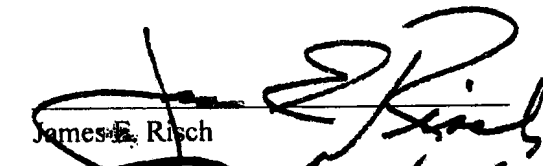
Jeff Bingaman




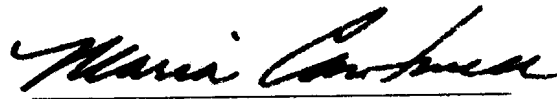
Daniel K. Akaka

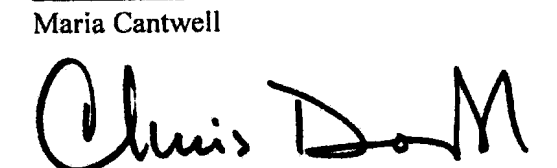


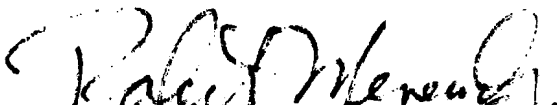
Benjamin L. Cardin


  
James E. Risch

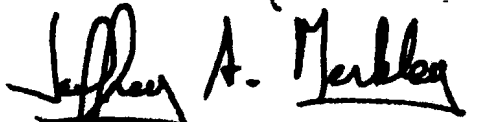
  
Tom Udall


  
Maria Cantwell

  
Christopher J. Dodd


  
Robert Menendez


  
Bernard Sanders

  
Jeff Merkley

  
Barbara Boxer


  
Ron Wyden


  
Max Baucus

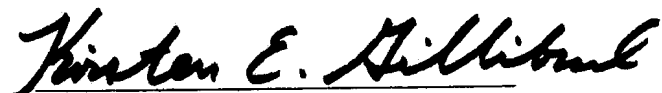
  
Charles E. Schumer

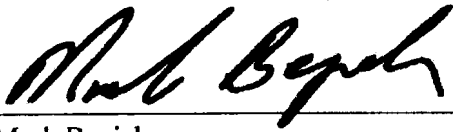
  
Debbie Stabenow

  
Jeanne Shaheen

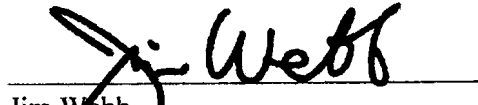
  
Claire McCaskill

  
Roland W. Burris

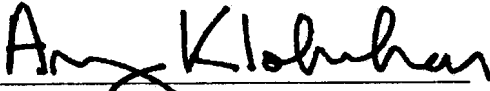
  
Kirsten E. Gillibrand



Mark Begich



Jim Webb



Amy Klobuchar



Michael F. Bennet



Bill Nelson

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations

**Commerce, Justice, Science Budget**

*(All numbers are expressed in millions)*

**Authorization Level**

**Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women**

**Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs**

**STOP Grants**

(Grants to Combat Violence Against Women) **\$225**

Transitional Housing Assistance **\$40**

Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies **\$75**

Rural Domestic Violence Assistance Grants **\$55**

Violence on College Campuses **\$15**

Civil Legal Assistance **\$65**

Elder Abuse Grant Program **\$10**

Safe Havens Project **\$20**

Education & Training for Disabled Female Victims **\$10**

CASA/Court-Appointed Special Advocates **\$12**

Training for Judicial Personnel (Child Abuse) **--**

Stalking Database **\$3**

Court Training and Improvements **\$5**

Advocates for Youth/Services for Youth Victims (STARY) **\$15**

National Tribal Sex Offender Registry **\$1**

Analysis and Research on Violence Against Indian Women **\$1**

Closed Circuit Television Grants (Child Abuse) **--**

Engaging Men and Youth in Prevention **\$10**

National Resource Center on Workplace Responses **\$1**

Privacy Protections for Victims **\$5**

Federal Victim Assistants **\$1**

Law Enforcement Training (Trafficking) **\$10**

Sexual Assault Services Program **\$50**

Combating Violence Against Women in Public Housing **\$10**

Combating Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual

Assault, and Stalking in Middle and High Schools

(Supporting Teens through Education and Protection) **\$5**

Access to Justice for Youth **\$5**

Assisting Children and Youth Exposed to Violence **\$20**

Curricula and Pilot Projects for Home Visitation Programs **\$7**

Grants for Outreach to Underserved Communities **\$2**

**Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Budget**

*(All numbers are expressed in millions)*

**Authorization Level**

**Department of Health and Human Services**

Children and Families Services Programs

**Family Violence Prevention and Services and  
Battered Women's Shelters**

(Battered Women's Shelters Program)

**\$175**

**National Domestic Violence Hotline**

**\$3.5**

**Increasing the Long-Term Stability of Victims**

**\$10**

**Training and Collaboration on the Intersection between  
Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment**

(Greenbook Project)

**\$5**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Environmental Health and Injury

**Rape Prevention Education**

**\$80**

**Community Initiatives to Prevent Abuse**

**\$6**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Fostering Public Health Responses to Domestic Violence,  
Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking**

**\$5**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

**Study Conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

(Research on Effective Prevention)

**\$2**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

**Research on Effective Interventions in the Healthcare Setting**

(Research on Effective Interventions to Address Violence Against Women)

**\$5**

Indian Health Service and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Analysis and Research on Violence Against Indian Women**

**\$0.5**

Health Resources and Services Administration

**Training and Education of Health Professionals**

(Interdisciplinary Training and Education on Domestic Violence)

**\$3**