Don’t Let Them Flat Fund Sexual Assault Services & Prevention

*Please Contact Your State Lawmakers & Speak Up at Upcoming Regional Budget Hearings*

March 2015 - In his budget proposal to the Legislature, Governor Scott Walker has recommended flat funding the Sexual Assault Victim Services (SAVS) grant program. This is the only state funding for sexual assault services, prevention, and education. Please raise your voice for survivors now!

Please write a personalized letter, call, and/or send a personalized email to your state representative and state senator (see A. below). Please also attend a field hearing (see B. below) to tell the Joint Finance Committee to increase SAVS funding to $4 million annually.

Don’t forget to register for Legislative Advocacy Day (March 25):
http://www.wcasa.org/pages/Events_Legislative-Advocacy-Day.php

A. Please Contact Your State Representative and State Senator

Identify your lawmakers and their contact information at [http://legis.wisconsin.gov](http://legis.wisconsin.gov)

Suggested Outline and Talking Points

Start with your own story or experience, or that of someone close to you, or in general why you care about ending sexual violence. Then supplement with any or all of these points. Again, please personalize these points where possible. Otherwise, legislators may not value your communication. Thank you!

- My name is________ , my address and phone number are *(so they can respond and/or confirm you are a constituent)* ________, and I am a constituent.
- I contact you today as a private citizen greatly concerned that the governor’s proposed budget essentially flat funds the Sexual Assault Victim Services grant program at $2 million annually.
- We need to increase funding for the Sexual Assault Victim Services grant program to $4 million annually.
- Current funding, at 2009 levels, is so low that six counties are not served by program grantees at all (Barron, Buffalo, Florence, Green Lake, Sawyer and Waushara).
- The Sexual Assault Victim Services grant program is the only state program that provides funds to Wisconsin’s sexual assault service providers for sexual violence services, community education, and prevention.
- Increased funding for this program is very important so that survivors can get the help they need when they need it.

*(talking points continue on next page…)*
• Also, increased funding can enable service providers to implement more comprehensive education and prevention activities.
• Please respond to me with what action the representative/senator will take to ask the Joint Finance Committee to increase funding for the Sexual Assault Victim Services Grant Program to $4 million annually.
• Thank you.

B. Please Attend and Speak at One of the Following Budget Field Hearings

You can use the talking points above (except usually the one about being a constituent).

Wednesday, March 18 (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)*
Brillion High School
Endries Performing Arts Center
W1101 County Road HR
Brillion, WI 54110

Friday, March 20 (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)*
Alverno College
Pitman Theatre
3400 South 43rd Street
Milwaukee, WI 53234

Monday, March 23 (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)*
University of Wisconsin-Barron County
Fine Arts Theatre
1800 College Drive
Rice Lake, WI 54868

Thursday, March 26 (9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)*
Reedsburg High School
CAL Center Auditorium
1100 South Albert Avenue
Reedsburg, WI 53959

*The Committee will conclude taking testimony at the time specified. Written comments can be emailed to the Committee at BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov, or sent via U.S. mail to: Joe Malkasian, Room 305 East, State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702.

About Us

The Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Inc. (WCASA) is a membership agency comprised of 50 sexual assault service providers across the state, other organizations, and individuals working to end sexual violence in Wisconsin. WCASA works to ensure that every victim in Wisconsin gets the support and care they need. WCASA’s mission is to create the social change necessary to end sexual violence. For more information, please contact:

Dominic W. Holt, M.S.W., M.F.A.
Public Policy & Communications Coordinator
Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA)
2801 West Beltline Highway, Suite 202
Madison, WI 53713
608-257-1516 ext. 113
dominich@wcasa.org
www.wcasa.org