WCASA Applauds Lawmakers and Advocates for Supporting Sexual Assault Survivors

Madison – May 8, 2015 – Yesterday, the legislature’s Joint Finance Committee voted unanimously in support of survivors of sexual assault. The committee increased funding for the Sexual Assault Victim Services grant program by a one-time amount of $100,000 in the second year of the 2015-2017 budget.

“The Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA) applauds the entire Joint Finance Committee for unanimously voting to increase funding for the Sexual Assault Victim Services grant program,” stated Pennie Meyers, executive director of WCASA. “WCASA appreciates the growing consensus among state lawmakers on the importance of increasing funding for sexual assault victim services and prevention,” stated Meyers.

“We also applaud the countless citizens who have reached out to their legislators about supporting survivors of sexual assault in this budget,” stated Meyers.

“In a climate of budget cuts and concerning revenue forecasts, this increase in the Sexual Assault Victim Services grant program is a step in the right direction,” stated Meyers.


“WCASA sends a particularly heartfelt thanks to Joint Finance Committee Co-chair Nygren, Vice-chair Olsen, and Senators Taylor and Erpenbach, for their moving statements on the importance of increasing services for survivors of sexual assault and increasing prevention,” stated Meyers. (See video 5-7-15 JFC Part 2, starting at 2:31:00.)

“However, we should not lose sight of the estimated 390,000 women who have been raped in Wisconsin, or the additional 1.4 million men and women who have experienced some other type of sexual violence in the state,” stated Meyers. “Much work remains to advance prevention and to meet this enormous need,” stated Meyers.

“WCASA looks forward to working with lawmakers in future sessions to increase the state’s investment in services for survivors and prevention of sexual violence,” stated Meyers.

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The Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA, www.wcasa.org) is a membership agency comprised of organizations and individuals working to end sexual violence in Wisconsin. Among these are the 50 sexual assault service provider agencies throughout the state that offer support, advocacy and information to survivors of sexual assault and their families. WCASA works to ensure that every survivor in Wisconsin gets the support and care they need. WCASA also works to create the social change necessary to ensure a future where no child, woman or man is ever sexually violated again.