

# Representative Gwen Moore Introduces Critical Domestic Violence Funding Bill

*Wisconsin Victim Advocates Applaud Moore's National Leadership*

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**Madison** - With the announcement today that Representative Gwen Moore (D-Milwaukee) is introducing legislation to reauthorize the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), Wisconsin victim advocates expressed their praise and appreciation.

"Rep. Moore is a national leader in supporting policies and programs for domestic violence victims," said Patti Seger, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WCADV). "FVPSA is the one piece of federal legislation that directly supports domestic violence shelters and programs across the nation."

FVPSA expired in 2008. Advocates stress the importance of renewing the nation's commitment to ensuring that domestic violence victims have shelter and resources in their communities.

"In these distressed economic times, this legislation is needed now more than ever," said Seger. "As victims have fewer places to turn, local programs are being asked to do more with less. We are thrilled Rep. Moore is championing the effort to stabilize funding."

Rep. Moore agreed the legislation is critically needed.

"Victims of domestic violence should never be forced to go back to their abusers because they don't have access to an emergency shelter - or because they are worried about their financial stability if they leave," Rep. Moore said. "Calls for help have skyrocketed over the past year as the economy has suffered, and we have a duty to help these victims and their kids find safety and rebuild their lives. This legislation provides the critical resources that make shelters and lifesaving services available to victims."

Recent studies demonstrate that the services funded by FVPSA are working. A survey in Wisconsin found that 9 out of 10 domestic violence survivors had enhanced strategies for safety after working with their local domestic violence program. Another report, NNEDV's annual Census of Domestic Violence, captured a 24-hour snapshot of domestic violence services rendered. In one day alone, programs served nearly 61,000 victims and answered more than 21,000 crisis hotline calls.

Advocates are hopeful for passage of the reauthorization.

"We call on the rest of Wisconsin's congressional delegation to join Rep. Moore," said Seger. "Reauthorization of FVPSA will reduce violence and make Wisconsin and the rest of the nation more responsive to the needs of victims."

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