

Daughters of Penelope Civic Responsibility Campaign

Action Alert

Help Ensure Domestic Violence Awareness Month Is Declared in Congress!

Background

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month!

Please join us to declare October 2010 as the twenty-third annual Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Since 1981, domestic violence advocates have been coming together to bring national attention to domestic violence. **Legislation designating October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month has passed every year since 1989.** We urge you to join us as we continue to shine a light on this grievous social injustice.

Domestic violence is a pervasive, life-threatening crime affecting millions of individuals across our nation regardless of age, gender, socio-economic status, race or religion. The statistics are alarming:

- Every day, more than three women are murdered by their intimate partners.
- Approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence annually.
- The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion each year.

Though we have made steady progress, many victims still suffer in silence. In fact, a 2009 national survey of domestic violence programs found that while over 65,000 victims were served in a single day, 9,280 requests for services went unmet because programs lacked the resources to provide the services. As the economy continues to decline, the unconscionable gap between need and resources only widens.

Continued Congressional attention is still greatly needed.

Status

H.Res.1637 is a House resolution that supports the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2010 and expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should continue to raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families and communities, and support programs and practices designed to prevent and end domestic violence.

H.Res.1637 introduced by Victims' Rights Caucus Founder U.S. Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX), has 37 co-sponsors, which allows the resolution to move out of the House Committee on Education and Labor.

The challenge is to ensure the resolution is placed on the House Calendar before the House adjourns prior to the November elections.

Your Action is Needed! Please Contact the House Leadership Today!

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October) has been designated by the House of Representatives every year since 1989.

Time is quickly running out for the House of Representatives to bring H.Res.1637 to the floor for action as the congressional calendar hastily draws to a close prior to the November elections.

Please call Speaker Nancy Pelosi at 202-225-0100. Ask that the resolution designating October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, H.Res.1637, be placed on the House Calendar and moved to a vote.

Please call Majority Leader Steny Hoyer at 202-225-3130. Ask that the resolution designating October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, H.Res.1637, be placed on the House Calendar and moved to a vote.

- Please be polite, but firm.

Contact VIA E-MAIL

- Visit <http://www.speaker.gov/contact/> to write to Speaker Pelosi.
- Visit http://www.majorityleader.gov/email_and_rss/email_the_leader/ to write to Majority Leader Steny Hoyer.

Helpful Tips

- ✓ Keep your message as brief and as focused as possible.
- ✓ For expediency, we recommend sending a fax or telephoning as opposed to correspondence that is mailed.
- ✓ Remember, members of Congress work for you and they want to hear from you.
- ✓ **Note:** For the purposes of record keeping, please send a copy of your correspondence to: Executive Director Elena Saviolakis at Elena@ahepa.org.
 - This will allow us to know who in Congress has been contacted for future follow-up.

Questions?

- ✓ Please contact Daughters of Penelope Legislative Consultant Andrew Kaffes, Andrew@agkaffes.com.
- ✓ For more information about the Victim's Rights Caucus, please visit <http://vrc.poe.house.gov/>

Sample Content for EMAIL or

Hi, my name is _____. On behalf of the Daughters of Penelope (DOP), a premier international women's association, I am counting on Speaker Pelosi [or Majority Leader Hoyer] to bring House Resolution 1637 to the floor for a vote to support Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2010. Legislation designating October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month has passed every year since 1989. Please continue to shine a light on this grievous social injustice. Thank you.