

PRESS RELEASE

June 25, 2015

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Failure to Pass Budget Would Put Domestic Violence Victims and Children at Risk

Domestic violence programs across the state of Washington received notice that if the Washington State Legislature fails to pass a budget by midnight on June 30, 2015, state funding for critical services will be suspended beginning July 1. Programs were informed that they will need to suspend the delivery of services they provide under their state contracts. These include: 24-hour emergency shelter where victims and children are safe from an abusive partner; 24-hour crisis lines that provide victims, friends, and families with immediate, life-saving information and support; connecting victims to other social services, such as affordable housing, public benefits, and legal aid; and helping victims file for a Protection Order and planning for safety once the abuser is served.

"If legislators fail to pass a budget, it will jeopardize the safety net for domestic violence victims in our state," said Grace Huang, Public Policy Coordinator for the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. "Fewer victims and children will be helped and more will be forced to stay in dangerous situations."

On one single day last year, domestic violence programs across Washington served over 1,930 victims and children, provided safe housing to 1,026 people, and answered 603 hotline calls.

About the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Founded in 1990 by survivors of domestic violence and their allies, the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a non-profit network of over 70 domestic violence advocacy programs across the state of Washington. We improve how communities respond to domestic violence and work to create a social intolerance for abuse. Our work includes research, training and technical assistance, producing educational tools, promoting domestic violence awareness, and public policy advocacy. To learn more, please visit wscadv.org.

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