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*Senator/Representative Full Name*  
*Home or District Address*  
*Address Continued*

*Date*

*Dear Senator/Representative Last Name,*

*[Introduce yourself – your position, program, what the program does and the counties your program serves.]*

*Insert program name* is a member of the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault (Iowa CASA) and the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV). These two organizations and their member programs have together developed the Funding Restoration Project in order to increase awareness and secure sustainable funding for programs providing services to Iowans who have been sexually assaulted or subjected to domestic abuse. In fiscal year 2007 alone, over 26,000 victims in Iowa benefited from the work of 28 community-based crisis and advocacy centers located across the state; 28 programs, each with an average full time staff size of 6, provide services for 99 counties.

The existence of these programs is now at a critical juncture. Crisis centers in Iowa rely on state and federal funding to provide services, often on a shoestring budget and only with the help of volunteers. You may recall that five years ago the state line-item dedicating state funds to victim assistance grants was eliminated due to state budget challenges. Since that time, a dwindling state reserve fund was tapped into to compensate for 85% of the funding lost. Since that time, nine programs serving multiple counties each were closed, including: Algona, Carroll, Cherokee, Deaf Iowans Against Abuse, Jefferson, Knoxville, Shenandoah, Waterloo, and Waukon.

*[insert area/regional-specific funding challenges you are having/what you aren't able to provide now anyway and what services will end or decrease without secure funding]*

The fact that the state is beginning to recognize the financial necessity of providing for sexual assault and domestic violence victims is sincerely appreciated. As you know, during the 2008 legislative session the Iowa General Assembly included in the Justice Appropriations Bill its intent to appropriate \$1 million from the state's General Fund for victim assistance during fiscal year 2010. However, we also know that current funding from the crime victim compensation reserve fund is nearly exhausted and that without a \$4 million commitment from the state Iowa will face additional center closures, hotlines that will go unanswered, reduced prevention education efforts, fewer services for children, and elimination of shelters resulting in residents of even large cities having to travel 35 to 50 miles to receive emergency services.

In the next few days, *insert name* will contact you to answer your questions and to help you understand the needs of the programs and victims residing in your district. If you would be interested in meeting or touring our facilities, we would be pleased to discuss this further. You should feel free to contact me personally at any time as *insert your member program's name* would value the opportunity to partner with you in your efforts to best serve the needs of your constituency.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

*Sender's Name*

*Sender's Title*

*Sender's Organization*

*Address*

*Address*

*Phone*

*Email*

*Website (?)*

cc: Nancy Robertson, ICADV/Iowa CASA Funding Restoration Project ([NancyR@icadv.org](mailto:NancyR@icadv.org))  
Erika Anderson, ICADV/Iowa CASA Funding Restoration Project ([ea@mchsi.com](mailto:ea@mchsi.com))