



City of Long Beach
Working Together to Serve

R-18
Office of Dee Andrews
Council Member, Sixth District
Memorandum

Date: October 5, 2010

To: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

From: Suja Lowenthal, Vice Mayor &
Dee Andrews, Councilmember Sixth District *DA*
Rae Gabelich, Councilmember Eighth District *RG*

Subject: **AGENDA ITEM:** Resolution in support of the Family Violence Prevention
And Services Act (HR 4116)

DISCUSSION

Domestic violence directly impacts one in four women over a lifetime and 15.5 million children every year. This violence and abuse is devastating, costly and can be deadly. Each day in this country, an average of three women are killed by current or former intimate partner.

To respond to the needs of victims of domestic violence, there are over 2,000 community-based domestic violence programs for survivors and their children, providing emergency shelter to approximately 300,000 victims annually and offering services such as counseling, crisis lines, safety planning, legal assistance, and preventative education to millions of adults and children annually.

These effective programs save and help rebuild lives. A recently released multi-state study shows conclusively that the nation's domestic violence shelters are addressing both urgent and long-term needs of victims of violence, and are helping victims protect themselves and their children. Yet community-based domestic violence programs report that they cannot meet the overwhelming demand for services. In fact, in just one day, a total of 8,927 requests for services went unmet because programs lacked the resources to meet the victims' needs.

Next year, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) will expire. The law is responsible for over \$600 million annually going to nearly 25 different programs to create and support comprehensive, cost-effective responses to prevent and respond to domestic violence. FVPSA funded programs are the heart of our nation's response to adult and child victims of domestic violence. Reauthorizing and fully funding FVPSA will allow communities across the country to continue to provide critically needed direct services to victims of domestic violence and their children, which will help to prevent homicides and break the cycle of violence.

Recommendation:

It is respectfully requested that the Long Beach City Council take a position for the approval of reauthorizing the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) and that the City Attorney to draft a resolution expressing its support of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act on the basis that this Council stands to provide more services to more families and that it re-affirms our support to effectively break the cycle of violence.