


SUPPORT FLANAGAN AMENDMENT (EHS #595):
Maintain Domestic Violence Services at FY09 level
Line item 4800-1400: \$23,473,406

Why? Because these numbers just don't add up.

11% FUNDING CUTS		INCREASED RISK AND SERVICES	
Senate Ways & Means Proposal FY2010 Budget	20,827,410	# of Domestic Violence Homicides	14 murders plus 2 suicides since 1/1/09
FY2009 Funding level	23,473,406	# of Hotline Calls since this time last year	Up 100%
Difference (11% decrease)	(2,645,996)	Demand for shelter in past six months	Up 30 – 60 %
		In one day in Massachusetts:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 695 victims found refuge in emergency shelter or transitional housing • 858 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services • 550 Hotline Calls Answered • 292 unmet requests for help

Each and every day domestic violence programs in Massachusetts help save lives.

During this fiscal crisis, victims of sexual assault and domestic violence are at greater risk of violence and of potentially more dangerous violence. Cutting funding for domestic violence services leaves victims doubly at risk.

Local programs as well as the statewide domestic violence hotline are reporting significant increases in terms of hotline calls and requests for services, specifically emergency housing. These programs help victims develop and implement a safety plan; provide critical support to children who witness domestic violence; offer legal advocacy and support groups; operate supervised visitation programs; develop collaborations with law enforcement, health care and educational institutions to improve responses to and prevention of abuse; reach victims in every community from urban centers to rural hill-towns and suburban neighborhoods with culturally and linguistically-competent services.

These programs already struggle to keep their doors opened and hotlines answered. An 11% cut to these services will jeopardize the safety of untold numbers of victims and their children.

For more information, contact Jane Doe Inc.'s Policy Director Isa Woldegiorguis at 617-557-1821 or iwoldegiorguis@janedoe.org or your local domestic violence program.