



# HAVIN

Helping All Victims In Need

106 Irvis Office Building  
PO Box 202127  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2127

Phone: 717-653-1100 Fax: 717-653-1107  
E-mail: [info@havin.org](mailto:info@havin.org) [www.havin.org](http://www.havin.org)

August 7, 2008

The Honorable Thomas P. Caltagirone, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
106 Irvis Office Building  
PO Box 202127  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2127

RE: House Bill 59

Dear Chairman Caltagirone:

Please accept this letter as written testimony regarding the need for enactment of House Bill 59, a bill to raise revenue for domestic violence services in Pennsylvania. I am writing to you on behalf of HAVIN (Helping All Victims In Need), a domestic violence and sexual assault center located in Armstrong County. Over the last several years, we have seen an increase in need and requests for services, increases in costs for providing these services, and a marked decrease in state and federal funding. Our capacity to meet the needs of victims is steadily eroding and at this point, I feel we are in a death spiral. The nearly \$3 million annually that House Bill 59 would provide is desperately needed to get us out of this dangerous trend, and I urge you to make its passage this session a top priority.

HAVIN provides critical services such as crisis counseling, legal and medical advocacy and accompaniment, emergency shelter and 24-hour hotlines. We also provide outreach/education programs and training for law enforcement and other professionals.

HAVIN currently employs eight full-time, three part-time staff and a small group of volunteers to cover critical services 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. We all do multiple functions, for instance as the Executive Director, I provide direct services, do outreach, systems advocacy and prevention/education programs, grant writing, etc. Along with HAVIN's Board of Directors, I am primarily responsible for all fundraising.

During my tenure, we have worked diligently to educate the community about domestic and sexual violence, and to ensure victims of these crimes know where they can go for support. We have earned the respect and support of our community. Along with this, there is an expectation that we will be available to provide competent, supportive services to victims who face very difficult challenges. According to the US Census, Armstrong County's median income is \$35,501 with 13.6% of our population living in poverty. Many of the men, women and children that we serve are low income with limited to no transportation.

As the funding decreases, I have demands on my time to provide direct services. This is due to cutbacks of personnel and low wages, resulting in staff turn-over. Many of our cases are challenging, and require

expertise in sexual assault, domestic violence and other systems. Currently some of the situations I am involved in include a four-year old child sexual assault victim that is exceptionally complicated, I am doing counseling, advocacy and accompaniment in a domestic violence stalking case where the victim has fallen through too many cracks and we fear that some of the failures will result in her murder. I am also providing counseling to her ten-year-old son who's being engaged in the stalking behaviors by his father, and I am providing direct services, including counseling, advocacy and accompaniment to a politically sensitive situation where a law enforcement officer is the domestic violence perpetrator.

Needless to say, we are truly struggling. Due to funding cuts, we have reduced prevention/education staff down to one person. What that does is prevent us from informing the community about our services and ensuring that victims know where to receive support. I am finding that I do not have the time needed to do critical systems advocacy, which is creating an environment in our community where victims of sexual and domestic violence are in emotional and physical danger.

We have made good business decisions at HAVIN. For example, we job-share our fiscal person with another domestic violence shelter. This has resulted in a savings of approximately \$15,000 per year. We are doing fundraising in conjunction with them also, pooling our time and talents while increasing locally raised funds.

I am enclosing two documents. One is a Grant Funding Scale showing State and Federal funding trends for HAVIN with corresponding statistics of service provision. I am also enclosing HAVIN's expenses for fiscal years 01/02 through 06/07. Please note on the Grant Funding Scale that we have experienced over \$88,000 in State and Federal cuts. If you review our expenses, in particular those that we can control, i.e. salaries, program supplies, and professional services have decreased, while uncontrollable expenses for utilities, benefits, business insurance, and telephone have increased.

I want to share some specific information with you to help you fully understand the sacrifices those of who passionately care about victims make across the Commonwealth. If you please look at the expense chart, you will see that our benefits have increased (while salaries have decreased due to elimination of positions and reducing several full-time positions to part-time). We continue to provide healthcare coverage for full-time staff, excluding spouses and dependants. Our salaries are so low, an average of \$25,337 for our full-time workers (our range is lowest for shelter manager is \$15,000 to highest (myself) at \$50,700). Approximately four years ago I discontinued accepting our healthcare coverage because we experienced a 30 percent rate increase and there was nowhere we could absorb this in our budget. Our Board of Directors and I realized that the only alternative was to reduce coverage or to require HAVIN staff to assist in paying premiums. We knew these choices would result in staff turn-over. While I am covered by my husband's insurance, I must pay of this coverage. I am telling you this not because I am a martyr, but to provide an example. I have a Masters Degree in Social Work, am a Licensed Social Worker with twenty-five years experience in social services. I know that caring, compassionate, experienced staff are critical to social services.

Many alternative funding streams, such as private foundations and grants want to pay for projects. We don't need funds for projects, or new programs, we need funds for core services. We need funds for operational expenses, including utilities, salaries and benefits so that victims receive quality supportive services. Victims receiving support from experts in domestic and sexual violence are less likely to require support from mental health and drug and alcohol programs, thus adequately funding domestic violence services is a win-win for all of us, most importantly the people we serve.

I am asking you to support House Bill 59. I know you understand that if the current trends continue, our life-saving services are in jeopardy. I am available for further discussion at your convenience.

Respectfully,

Jo Ellen Bowman, LSW

Executive Director

**GRANT FUNDING SCALE**

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	*OVERALL LOSS
PCADV	229,121	273,886	274,537	275,779	271,372	271,372	271,372	275,422	275,422	7,152
PCAR	85,568	101,988	100,309	94,189	91,367	85,822	80,845	77,031	76,736	-25,252
VOCA	80,708	92,814	103,555	95,352	91,799	86,842	83,342	82,433	82,433	-21,122
VAWA	105,000	84,000	101,529	84,000	70,560	65,621	65,621	65,621	55,756	-49,244
	500,397	552,688	579,930	549,320	525,098	509,657	501,180	500,507	490,347	-88,466
Clients	1,428	925	678	766	938	966	996	896		
Hours	4845	2,930	3,006	3,467	3,647	3,437	4,047	4,275		
Programs	523	477	137	200	327	467	279	463		
Participants	11873	5,008	3,224	3,783	5,826	7,606	10,843	21,722		

PCADV-Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (State-Act 44/General Fund & Act 222/Marriage License Revenue).

(PCADV Federal-Title XX, FVPS, SSBG Welfare Advocacy, SSBG/Medical Advocacy & SSBG/Relocation).

PCAR-Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (State-Act44/General Fund).

(PCAR Federal-Title XX, Rape Prevention & Education, & PHHSBG)

VOCA-Victim Of Crime Act (Federal).

VAWA-Violence Against Women Act (Federal).

\*PCADV 03/04 reduction includes calculation of 4,000 of a one time Media Advocacy Grant.

\*PCAR 08/09 estimate based on PHHSBG funds.

\*Increase in PCADV from 00/01 to 01/02 due to \$39,149 from competitive Medical Advocacy Grant.

HAVIN EXPENSES FISCAL YEARS 2000/2001 THRU 2006/2007

	01-Jun	June 02	Jun-03	Jun-04	Jun-05	Jun-06	Jun-07	
Salaries	326143	272,941	274315	284235	274229	265826	265870	-60,273
Fringe Benefits	74528	70,938	68672	103086	97506	108151	86972	12,444
Operations	400571	343,879	342987	387321	371735	373377	352842	-47,829
Donated Mater.	32975	46929	69044	75538	74357	68498	69349	36,374
Advertising	3995	8775	4989	4701	4063	5715	5076	1,081
Fundraising	4848	8211	1576	3614	9023	185		-4,663
Insurance	2581	5559	4896	11364	10721	12561	13611	11,030
Prof Educ./Lib	11684	9783	7733	6954	3869	4701	2191	-390
Office supplies	7982	30892	24134	13300	16578	16620	18136	10,154
Postage	9102	3612	3546	4000	4472	3534	3384	-5,718
Printing	6689	14987	10073	11424	14727	7398	21619	14,930
Prog Supplies	11338	21288	9094	512	284		270	-11,068
Client Relo		10007	10701	12283	11558	11558	14391	4,384
Prof Services	31065	54056	41893	35744	22519	15443	16367	-14,598
Equip lease/main	16554	20602	46900	46270	48108	44358	27012	10,458
Law Enforcement	33333	20000	20000	21000	17640	18709	17931	-15,402
Rent	7425	645	2684	6035	1480	600	15000	7,575
Telephone	9611	9393	9763	12777	12517	13023	13113	3,502
Travel	6948	6608	8449	7625	17471	5492	9104	2,156
Utilities	15795	13539	16089	16659	17285	20458	18970	3,175
Staff Devel.	6481	12605	15817	17426	15870	6258	3229	-3,252
Misc.	7225	1924	12184	9089	13600	14886	15080	7,855
Interest	4938	5200	7598	5702	1030	828	975	-3,963
Depreciation	25111	23372	25506	28302	10055	10348	9978	-15,133
Food	3243							-3,243
Housekpg Sup	1635							-1,635
Admin fees	5531							-5,531
Shelter Supplies			7554	12137	13649	11746	17198	9,644
Total Operations	266089	327987	360223	362456	340876	292919	311984	45,895
Total Salaries	400671	343879	342987	387321	371735	373377	352842	-47,829
Overall Total	666760	671866	703210	749777	712611	666296	664826	-1,934

