



For more information, please contact:

[Robert Coombs](#)

Director of Public Affairs
California Coalition Against Sexual Assault
916-446-2520 X 325
916-743-6069 (mobile)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE BUDGET LEAVES VICTIMS VULNERABLE, SAFETY NET IN TATTERS

Domestic Violence Program Cuts Highlight Desperate Times for Victim Services

(July 31, 2009) Sacramento—This week’s budget signing left a critical hole in California’s victim services safety net. With more than \$20 million in cuts, California’s domestic violence programs took some of the biggest hits, leaving community agencies to try desperately to pick up the pieces.

“Funding for victim services has always been volatile, and has never been prioritized to adequately meet the needs of victims” says Suzanne Brown-McBride, Executive Director of CALCASA. She adds “Rape crisis centers, many of whom also provide domestic violence services, have always been on the ropes. But this is a knock-out blow and our heart goes out to our colleagues who have to figure out how to put things back together.”

The cuts in California hurt domestic violence programs particularly hard, in part because of the investments the state had made in the past on this important issue. Tara Shabazz, Executive Director of the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence says “State funding for domestic violence changed the landscape for victims seeking to rebuild their lives,” She went on to say that “If the Governor’s budget cuts are allowed to stand, victims will not have a place to turn for help.”

CALCASA is a statewide organization in California working to end sexual violence. CALCASA’s membership is the eighty-five rape crisis programs throughout California, Campus-based rape prevention programs, and allied organizations and individuals sharing the mission to end sexual violence. View our website at CALCASAPublicPolicy.org.

###