CCADV Director Karen Jarmoc Meets with Senator Richard Blumenthal

Jarmoc joins domestic violence leaders from throughout the country to garner support for reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act

Washington, DC-Karen Jarmoc, the executive director of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) is in Washington D.C. this week meeting with members of the congressional delegation as part of the National Network to End Domestic Violence annual Advocacy Day initiative. Jarmoc is joined by victim advocates from across the U.S. to meet with lawmakers and promote a strong, bipartisan Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) that meets the needs of all victims. State coalition leaders also took the time to strategize for a successful passage of this important measure.

Jarmoc met with Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) a co-sponsor of SB 1925 and VAWA supporter at his offices on Capitol Hill. Jarmoc thanked him for his VAWA support and talked with the Senator about the issues and inadequacy of the House bill. Connecticut's full congressional delegation voted against the House bill which does not protect all victims.

"Karen Jarmoc and the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence enable tens of thousands of Connecticut women victimized by domestic violence to access some of the life-saving programs and benefits of the landmark Violence Against Women Act," Senator Blumenthal said. "As I know during her visit this week to Washington, Karen is a powerful and persuasive advocate for the women of Connecticut in the fight to reauthorize VAWA and end the epidemic of domestic violence."

"The senator has been great on VAWA and we really appreciate his support," Jarmoc said. "This bill has implications for Connecticut in very concrete ways. Through VAWA, CCADV will enhance its work in the criminal justice realm this summer by hiring a law enforcement coordinator who will offer advanced training and oversee Connecticut's Lethality Assessment Program aimed at reducing the number of domestic violence related homicides.

Jarmoc said VAWA also has a legal assistance for victims' grant that provides legal aid for the highest risk victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. "VAWA is very important to the day-to-day mission of the coalition and I am thankful to senator Blumenthal for his support in passing the Senate version," she added.

Since the passage of VAWA in 1994, the rate of non-fatal domestic violence against women has decreased by 53% and the number of women killed by an intimate partner has dropped by 34%. In the past VAWA has enjoyed bipartisan support but has seen troubling signs recently. Unlike the Senate, the House adopted a harsher version of the bill that does not protect all women. Both bills reauthorize the major grant programs and include measures that would streamline programs and services. However, Jarmoc and the National Network to End Domestic Violence would like for Congress to pass a final bill that protects all victims.

***************

The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a statewide coalition which works collaboratively with its 18 community based domestic violence agencies in Connecticut. Each agency offers free services to victims 24-hours-a-day to include hotline, safety through shelter, counseling and support groups and help to obtain a restraining order. If you or someone you know needs support, call the statewide free and confidential hotline at 888-774-2900. 

www.ctcadv.org