



Formerly Family Violence Prevention Fund

Please join us at Capitol Hill Breakfast Briefing:

**Prevent Teen Dating Violence:
Stop Violence Against Women Before It Begins**

Tuesday, February 28, 2012 – 8:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.
B369 Rayburn House Office Building, Capitol Hill

Since the passage of the Violence Against Women Act, the rate of domestic violence has dropped more than 50 percent. Despite this progress, young women still face the highest rates of dating violence and sexual assault. We also know that it is often at a young age when the cycle of lifetime abuse begins. A recent report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that one in five women and one in seven men who ever experienced violence by an intimate partner first experienced it as a teenager between the ages of 11 and 19. In addition, recent studies have found that teen dating violence and bullying, and other behavior problems, frequently co-occur in teens.

The positive news is that models and evidence-based programs to prevent teen dating violence exist. An evaluation of *Safe Dates*, being used in middle and high school curriculum to stop or prevent psychological, physical, and sexual abuse, showed 56% to 92% less dating violence among students who received the program compared to students who did not. A recent National Institute of Justice study has found that school-level interventions reduced dating violence as much as 50 percent in 30 New York City public schools. The success of school-level interventions is particularly important because they can be implemented with very few extra costs to schools.

Since 2004, Congress has recognized teen dating violence during the month of February. The awareness of the issue has only gathered more attention since that first Congressional resolution, particularly on the state level. So far, more than 20 states have passed teen dating violence laws. On the national level, Congress has introduced several bills on the issue, and Vice President Biden has focused awareness efforts on teens and young adults ages 16-24 as a way to stop physical and sexual violence before it begins. The White House effort is at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/1is2many>.

As the fourth annual Capitol Hill briefing on preventing teen dating violence, our panel of speakers will discuss promising initiatives that communities, schools, and parents can use to address this issue and the federal policy implications of the work from the field.

Futures Without Violence, formerly Family Violence Prevention Fund, is the national program office for *Start Strong: Building Healthy Teen Relationships*, an \$18 million initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in collaboration with the Blue Shield of California Foundation. Futures Without Violence also spearheads “That’s Not Cool,” a national public education campaign to prevent teen dating abuse sponsored by the DOJ’s Office on Violence Against Women, in partnership with the Advertising Council.

RSVP by Thursday, 2/23/2012 to sschaeffer@futureswithoutviolence.org or 202.595.7384.

Please forward the save the date to your networks.