

>> HELLO, EVERYONE. I'M MONIKA JOHNSON. I LIKE TO THANK YOU AND WELCOME YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR WEBINAR ON ADVOCATING FOR SURVIVOR SERVICES AND PREVENTION WITH CONGRESS. IT'S MY PLEASURE TO HAVE MY COLLEAGUES WALK YOU THROUGH WAYS THAT YOU CAN BE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS AND WHAT YOU DO IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES, DEFINITELY IMPACT THE WAY WE MOVE OUR FEDERAL ADVOCACY FORWARD FOR ALL THE FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES AND SUBSTANTIVE LEGISLATION THAT WE'RE DOING ON BEHALF OF YOU BY YOU SHARING THE SURVIVOR VOICES THAT YOU WORK WITH TO INFORM OUR POLICIES. IT IS TRULY BEEN A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR ME TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH ALL OF YOU AND TO KNOW THAT THERE ARE OVER 1300 CRISIS CENTERS IN COALITIONS THAT CONTINUE TO BE PARTNERS AND ADVOCATING FOR SURVIVOR SERVICES AND PREVENTION AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL. AT THIS TIME, IT IS MY PLEASURE TO TURN IT OVER TO MY COLLEAGUE. >> GOOD AFTERNOON, EVERYONE. I'M TERRI POORE, THE POLICY DIRECTOR AT THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE. WE'RE GOING TO START TODAY BY ENABLING OUR SPANISH INTERPRETATION. I WILL TURN IT OVER TO VANESSA TO EXPLAIN THAT TO YOU. >> HELLO, GOOD AFTERNOON. TODAY'S EVENT WILL BE CONDUCTED IN ENGLISH WITH SPANISH INTERPRETATION. THESE INSTRUCTIONS IS FOR ACCESSING SPANISH AND ENGLISH. YOU WILL NEED TO SELECT THE LANGUAGE CHANNEL. LOCATE THE GLOBE ICON USING THE SCREEN AND SELECT ENGLISH. IF YOU ARE JOINING VIA THE ZOOM APP ON A MOBILE DEVICE, CLICK MORE OR THE THREE DOTS, SELECT LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION. CHOOSE ENGLISH AND CLICK DONE. [SPEAKING SPANISH] THANK YOU. >> THANK YOU, VANESSA, THANK YOU TO ALL OUR INTERPRETERS TODAY. WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE TODAY. LET'S GET RIGHT INTO IT. TODAY'S WEBINAR, WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT OUR TOOL KIT FOR ADVOCATING FOR SURVIVOR SERVICES AND PREVENTION WITH CONGRESS. WE'RE GOING TO PROVIDE SOME KEY ISSUE

UPDATES SO THAT YOU HAVE CONTENT INFORMATION FOR YOUR MEETINGS WITH YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THEIR STAFF AND DISTRICT THIS APRIL DURING SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH. WE'RE GOING LAY OUT A TIMELINE FOR ADVOCACY THAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO FOLLOW. THEN, ELLEN FERN IS GOING TO PROVIDE ADVOCACY 101 INFORMATION. WE HAVE COUPLE OF WONDERFUL GUEST SPEAKERS TODAY. WE'LL END WITH SOME TALKING POINTS AND KEY ASKS. LET'S GET RIGHT INTO IT. WE WANTED TO SHARE OUR WEBSITE SO YOU CAN SEE WHERE YOU MIGHT FIND THIS INFORMATION. MAUREEN FROM OUR TEAM IS GOING TO SHARE OUR WEBSITE AND I'LL TALK YOU THROUGH WHERE YOU CAN GET THE HANDOUTS, TOOL KITS, PIECES THAT YOU MIGHT NEED TO SET UP THESE MEETINGS. IF YOU GO TO OUR WEBSITE, SEXUALVIOLENCE.ORG -- GIVE IT ONE SECOND. SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO SEE THE TABS WHEN YOU'RE ALSO SHARING YOUR SCREEN. IF YOU CAN SHARE -- THERE'S ADVOCATING FOR SURVIVOR SERVICES AND PREVENTION TAB. WHICH MIGHT NOT WORK WITH THE HEADING, I'M THINKING. WE CAN PAUSE THIS PART AND COME BACK TO IT AND SEE IF IT WILL WORK LATER. REST ASSURED ON OUR WEBSITE ENDSEXUALVIOLENCE.ORG. YOU CAN REFERENCE ALL OF THE MATERIALS WE'LL BE TALKING ABOUT TODAY. THE TOOL KIT, THE INFOGRAPHIC, ADDITIONALLY LIV IS DEVELOPING THOSE PIECES IN THE CHAT. YOU'LL HAVE THEM AVAILABLE TO YOU. LET'S GO TO THE NEXT SLIDE. I'M GOING TO TALK TODAY ABOUT SOME KEY ISSUES AND UPDATES ABOUT THE ISSUES WE CARE ABOUT. THERE ARE MANY POLICY ISSUES RELATED TO SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE THAT WE CAN BE WORKING ON AT THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL. WE'RE FOCUSED TODAY ON SOME VERY IMPORTANT FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES THAT FUND SURVIVOR SERVICES AND PREVENTION THAT ALMOST ALL LOCAL PROGRAMS AND SURVIVORS RELY ON. THOSE ARE THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT. WE CALL IT VOCA. THE SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES PROGRAM. KNOWN AS SASP. THE RATE PREVENTION EDUCATION

PROGRAM RPE. BRAND NEW INITIATIVE WE'RE PROPOSING IN HHS. THEN THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN, OR ARP SEXUAL ASSAULT FUNDING THAT GONE OUT TO CRISIS CENTERS. WE'RE GOING TO TOUCH ON THEM QUICKLY. KNOW THAT YOU CAN RETURN TO THOSE HANDOUTS THAT YOU'RE SEEING IN THE CHAT FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE TOPICS. ALMOST EVERYONE IS AWARE OF VOCA. VOCA IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT. IT FUNDS NOT JUST SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS, BUT ALSO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES, CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS AND VICTIM ADVOCATES IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTOR OFFICES WE KNOW THAT THE CRIME VICTIMS FUND HAS BEEN A LONG TIME NON-TAXPAYER SOURCE OFFENDING. UNFORTUNATELY, WE'VE SEEN SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASED DEPOSITS TO THE FUND. WE'RE NOW EXPERIENCING A SIGNIFICANT CUT TO VOCA. FY '24 VOCA WAS FUNDED AT \$1.3 BILLION, WHICH IS DOWN ABOUT \$600 MILLION FROM \$1.9 BILLION IN FY '23. VERY SIGNIFICANT CUT. WE'RE ALL VERY CONCERNED ABOUT. WE'VE BEEN TALKING A LOT WITH EACH OTHER AT THE NATIONAL STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL ABOUT WHAT ADVOCACY IS NEEDED TO ENSURE CONGRESS INVEST IN VOCA AND GOES BACK, AT LEAST TO THE FY 23 FUNDING LEVEL OF \$1.9 BILLION. WE'RE ALL WORKING ON THAT TOGETHER. SEVERAL YEARS AGO WE WORKED ON THE VOCA FIXED ACT WHICH PASSED. IT MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE. IT WASN'T SUFFICIENT. WE NEED TO KEEP WORKING ON IT. IN FY 25, ALSO, THE PRESIDENT RECOMMENDED AN INFUSION FOR VOCA OVER THE NEXT COMING YEARS OF \$7.3 BILLION. WHILE THAT'S VERY EXCITING, WE KNOW THAT NOW, REALLY FOR FY 25, THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS IS IN THE HANDS OF CONGRESS. WHETHER OR NOT CONGRESS WILL CHOOSE TO ENACT THAT PROPOSAL FROM THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET IS SOMETHING THAT'S UP IN THE AIR AND WILL TAKE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION. IN TERMS OF HELPFUL SOURCES FOR VOCA, WE KNOW THAT THERE WAS SETTLEMENT FROM FINANCE, WHICH IS CRYPTOCURRENCY COMPANY, BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND OVER A BILLION

DOLLARS, \$1.5 BILLION FROM THE FINANCE SETTLEMENT WILL GO TO THE VOCA FUND. THAT'S GOOD NEWS. WE ARE LOOKING AT REVENUE FROM THE FALSE CLAIMS ACT, IS A POSSIBLE PLACE TO LOOK FOR ADDITIONAL REVENUE FOR VOCA WE HAVE THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET PROPOSAL. WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW WAYS TO FUND VOCA. OUR KEY MESSAGE TO CONGRESS THIS YEAR AS IT WAS LAST YEAR IS THAT CONGRESS REALLY NEEDS TO FIND A PATHWAY TO BUILD UP THE CRIME VICTIMS FUND UNTIL IT CAN SUSTAIN AT LEAST THAT \$1.9 BILLION BECAUSE, VICTIM SERVICES REALLY RELY ON THAT FUND. ANOTHER REALLY IMPORTANT FEDERAL PROGRAM THAT WE RELY ON THROUGH THE CDC IS THE RAPE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM. RPE. THIS IS A FUNDING SOURCE CREATED IN THE FIRST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT IN 1994. DESIGNED TO FUND LOCAL PROGRAMS AND STATE COALITIONS TO DO PRIMARY PREVENTION WORK. THE PRIMARY PREVENTION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE. IN FY 24, WHICH JUST WAS COMPLETED, RPE WAS FUNDED AT \$61.75 MILLION. WE'RE REQUESTING \$100 MILLION IN FY 25. THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET ALSO, REQUESTED LEVEL FUNDING AT \$61.75 MILLION. BOTH IN FY 24 AND FY 25, THERE ARE BUDGET CAPS. CONGRESS IS OPERATING UNDER THE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT. LEVEL FUNDING IS QUITE A WIN. WHILE WE'RE ASKING FOR \$100 MILLION, WE DO THINK GETTING LEVEL FUNDING IN FY 24 WAS GOOD. OKAY. THE SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES PROGRAM IS ANOTHER FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM. FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM MEANS THE FUNDING GOES OUT TO THE STATES AND THE STATES ADMINISTER THAT FUNDING TO LOCAL PROGRAMS. SASP CREATED IN 2005, IS A DESIGNATED FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCE FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES. IN FY 24, IT WAS FUNDED AT \$78.5 MILLION. LEVEL FUNDING WITH FY 23. WE GOT A PRETTY BIG INCREASE. THAT WAS GOOD. FOR THIS PROGRAM, WE'RE REQUESTING \$100 MILLION FOR FY 25. THE PRESIDENT'S FY 25 BUDGET HAS \$90 MILLION. THE PRESIDENT ALSO RECOMMENDED AN INCREASE IN THIS

PROGRAM. THAT'S REALLY GOOD. THEN WE HAVE A BRAND NEW IDEA THAT WE'RE PURSUING BOTH FROM AN APPROPRIATIONS STANDPOINT AND ALSO WE'RE LOOKING TO SEE LEGISLATION INTRODUCED. SEXUAL ASSAULT DEMONSTRATION INITIATIVE AT HHS AT THE OFFICE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES. WE'RE REALLY WANTING TO SEE SUPPORT FOR A COMPREHENSIVE AND COLLABORATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS TO WORK WITH HEALTHCARE WORKERS. MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE, HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS, TO REALLY MAKE SURE SURVIVORS ARE GETTING THEIR NEEDS MET AND THOSE SYSTEMS UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS. WE'RE REQUESTING \$30 MILLION FOR THIS BRAND NEW PROJECT. LAST BUT NOT LEAST, WE KNOW THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN, SEXUAL ASSAULT FUNDS HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT TO HELP RAPE CRISIS CENTERS TO GET THROUGH THE COVID PANDEMIC. IN 2021, THERE WAS A HISTORIC INVESTMENT OF \$198 MILLION THROUGH THE OFFICE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES. WE KNOW THOSE FUNDS ARE IN THE FIELD MEETING THE NEEDS OF SURVIVORS AND ARE INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT. STATES ONLY HAVE UNTIL THE END OF FY 25 TO SPEND THESE FUNDS. WE THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO TALK ABOUT IMPORTANT THESE FUNDS ARE AND HOW IMPORTANT IT WILL BE TO FIND A CONTINUED FUNDING SOURCE SO THESE FUNDS DON'T RUN OUT PERMANENTLY AT THE END OF FY 25. OKAY. THOSE WERE OUR MAIN CONTENT ISSUES. VOCA, RPE, SASP, THE HHS DEMONSTRATION INITIATIVE AND THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN, ARPA FUNDS. NOW WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT MORE ABOUT SETTING UP YOUR MEETINGS AND HOW DO YOU INTERACT WITH CONGRESS ON THESE REALLY IMPORTANT ISSUES. WE HAVE THIS PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TIMELINE. OBVIOUSLY, TODAY, YOU'RE PARTICIPATING IN OUR PREP WEBINAR. WHICH IS AWESOME. WE'RE RECOMMENDING IN THE NEXT WEEK YOU REQUEST YOUR MEETINGS AND YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET AT A LOT

OF GOOD INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO DO THAT FROM ELLEN. THEN, WE RECOMMEND YOU SPEND THE NEXT WEEK GATHERING YOUR MATERIALS AND IF YOU HAVE MULTIPLE PEOPLE ATTENDING YOUR MEETINGS DO A PREP CALL WITH THEM SO YOU ALL KNOW WHICH ORDER YOU'RE GOING TO SPEAK IN. WE'LL TALK ABOUT THAT MORE SOON. WE'RE RECOMMENDING THAT YOU HOLD YOUR MEETINGS ON APRIL 24th AND 25th OR AROUND THAT TIME. IT'S REALLY GREAT THAT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE HOME IN DISTRICT ON RECESS, ALMOST EVERY YEAR DURING SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH. THIS IS A REALLY GREAT TIME TO TALK TO THEM AT HOME WHEN THEY'RE CARE BEING FAR LOCAL PROGRAMS AND WHAT CONSTITUENTS ARE DEALING WITH. THIS WEEK DURING RECESS, FIRST COUPLE OF DAYS IS THE BEGIN OF JEWISH PASSOVER HOLIDAY. WE RECOMMEND YOU START THOSE MEETINGS AFTER THE HOLIDAY. THAT'S WHY WE SUGGESTED APRIL 24th AND THE 25th. ANY TIME AROUND THEN, WILL BE GREAT. WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU FOLLOW UP AFTER THOSE MEETINGS BY MAY 6th, FOLLOW-UP EMAIL, PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION THAT'S BEEN REQUESTED. THEN, WE NEVER FEEL LIKE IT'S A ONE IN DONE WITH MEETING WITH STAFF AND MEETING WITH CONGRESS. WE FEEL LIKE IT'S IMPORTANT TO BUILD THAT RELATIONSHIP. WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU THINK AHEAD TO AUGUST WHEN CONGRESS WILL HAVE A RECESS AND BE HOME IN DISTRICT. FOR ANOTHER WAY TO INTERACT WITH YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, WHETHER THAT'S A TOUR OR HOLDING AN EVENT AT YOUR CENTER. THINKING IN TERMS OF AUGUST FOR THE FUTURE. BEFORE WE INTO ADVOCACY 101. WE HAVE A POLL FOR YOU. WE'RE GOING TO DO A POLL. IT'S ONE QUESTION. WE'RE GOING TO HOPE THAT EVERYONE WILL PARTICIPATE. I MEANT TO MENTION THIS IN THE BEGINNING, WE WILL HAVE QUESTION AND ANSWER SECTION AT THE END OF THE WEBINAR AFTER THE MATERIAL. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO USE THE Q&A FUNCTION AND WE WILL DEFINITELY GET TO YOUR QUESTIONS WHETHER SOMEBODY IS ABLE TO ANSWER THEM IN A

WRITTEN FORMAT OR AT THE END. WE'LL MAKE SURE TO GET TO THEM. THIS QUESTION, HAVE YOU MET WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS OR THEIR STAFF BEFORE? LOOKS LIKE WE'RE AT ABOUT 50/50. WHICH IS WONDERFUL. WE HAVE SOME EXPERIENCED FOLKS WHO HAVE DONE THIS BEFORE. THEN WE HAVE FOLKS WHO HAVEN'T DONE THIS BEFORE. WE'RE SUPER GLAD TO HAVE YOU HERE. MAY BE LEARNING THIS INFORMATION FOR THE FIRST TIME AND REALLY WANT A BIG TAKEAWAY FROM TODAY TO BE FOLKS FEELING EMPOWERED TO SET UP THOSE MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. YOU'RE THE ONES WHO VOTE YOUR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS IN OFFICE. WE HOPE YOU WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS INFORMATION TO SET UP MEETINGS ON ISSUES THAT YOU CARE ABOUT. WE WANTED TO SHARE A NOTE ABOUT THE QUESTION OF LOBBYING BEFORE WE GET INTO THE ADVOCACY NITTY-GRITTY. BECAUSE THESE QUESTIONS COME UP ALL THE TIME. AFTER I STOP TALKING, GAGE TO -- I'M GOING TO DROP IN THE CHAT ANOTHER RESOURCE ON ADVOCACY. FOLKS ALWAYS ASK, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT LOBBYING. I WANT TO SAY, YOU CAN DO ALL OF THE THINGS THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT DOING TODAY IN A WAY THAT'S NOT LOBBYING. ALSO, 501C3s, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS CAN LOBBY. THEY CAN ONLY USE A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF THEIR FUNDS TO LOBBY. THEY CAN LOBBY. IT IS OKAY. YOU CAN'T USE GRANT FUNDS TO LOBBY. I THINK WE ALL KNOW THAT. INDIVIDUALS CAN ALSO LOBBY. YOU CAN ALWAYS TAKE TIME OFF YOUR JOB AND GO AS A PERSONAL CITIZEN TO TALK ABOUT ANY OF THOSE ISSUES THAT'S PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE TO DO THAT. ALSO, EDUCATING POLICYMAKERS ABOUT YOUR PROGRAM AND NEEDS OF SURVIVORS WITHOUT TAKING A SPECIFIC POSITION IS NOT LOBBYING. YOU'LL SEE ON THIS WEBINAR, WE TALK ABOUT MAKING A SPECIFIC ASK. YOU CAN GO AND MEET WITH YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS. YOU CAN TALK TO THEM ABOUT THESE PROGRAMS. YOU CAN TALK TO THEM ABOUT WHAT YOU NEED IN TERMS OF PREVENTION. WHAT

SURVIVORS NEED. YOU CAN LEAVE OUT THE ASK AND THAT IS AN EDUCATIONAL MEETING. THAT'S NOT LOBBYING. WE THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO TAKE A MINUTE TO TALK ABOUT THAT. I'M GOING TO TURN IT OVER TO ELLEN. SHE'S GOING TO JUMP IN AND TALK MORE ABOUT THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF ADVOCACY, SETTING UP YOUR MEETINGS AND ALL THOSE PIECES. >> THANKS, SO MUCH, TERRI. HI, EVERYONE. I'M ELLEN FERN. I USE SHE, HER PRONOUNCE. I'M EXCITED TO TALK ABOUT SOME HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY. AS TERRI WAS JUST TALKING ABOUT, ADVOCACY REALLY, TO ME, IS ABOUT EDUCATING POLICYMAKERS THEIR STAFF ABOUT WHAT YOU KNOW BEST. YOU ARE AN EXPERT. YOU ARE THE EXPERT ON PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY SERVICES FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS AND PREVENTION SERVICES. POLICYMAKERS CAN'T POSSIBLY KNOW EVERY DETAIL ABOUT EVERY ISSUE. THAT'S WHY ADVOCACY AND OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IS SO IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT PROVIDES OUR SYSTEM PROVIDES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO IN AND EDUCATE. EDUCATE ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR COMMUNITY, WHAT YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES DO TO MEET THE NEEDS OF SURVIVORS AND TO THEN OFFER YOURSELF AND INFORMATION AS RESOURCES. TO MAKE THAT POLICYMAKER'S JOB BETTER. HE OR SHE CAN BETTER REPRESENT THE NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY. ADVOCACY IS REALLY ROOTED IN MUTUAL RESPECT AND TRUST. YOU'RE BUILDING TRUSTED RELATIONSHIPS. WE CAN HAVE DIFFERENT OPINIONS ON ISSUES, BUT WE CAN HEAR EACH OTHER. WE NEED TO STRIVE TO SHARE INFORMATION, RESPECT EACH OTHER'S VIEWS. THE BEST WE CAN DO IS GIVE GOOD SOUND INFORMATION AND BE THAT CRITICAL RESOURCE. THAT GO TO PERSON. THIS REALLY IS THE BEST FOUNDATION FOR REALLY EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY. WHEN YOU'RE REQUESTING A MEETING WITH YOUR ELECTED OFFICIAL, IT'S VERY EASY. YOU WANT TO GO TO THE OFFICE THAT'S NEAREST TO YOU. WE HAVE HERE ON THE SLIDE THE WEBSITES FOR THE SENATE AND HOUSE WHERE EVERY MEMBER HAS THEIR OWN WEBSITE AND CONTACT

INFORMATION ABOUT HOW AND WHERE TO CONTACT THE OFFICE SO YOU CAN REQUEST A MEETING. IF YOU'RE REQUESTING A MEETING WITH MEMBER, I RECOMMEND CALLING THE OFFICE, ASKING FOR THE SCHEDULER. HE OR SHE WILL TELL YOU HOW TO BEST TO COMMUNICATE YOUR REQUEST. YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE YOUR REQUEST ON THE PHONE. THEY MIGHT ASK YOU TO SEND IN A WRITTEN REQUEST. WHAT OFFICE YOU WOULD LIKE TO MEET AT AND WHEN YOU MIGHT BE AVAILABLE. THEN, YOU MAKE THAT REQUEST GOING TO MAKING THAT CALL. THEN, WAITING THREE OR FOUR OR FIVE DAYS IF YOU DON'T HEAR BACK, IT'S PERFECTLY FINE. EXPECTED TO MAKE A FOLLOW-UP CALL OR E-MAIL TO TRY AND LOCK IN A MEETING WHEN THE MEMBER IS HOME BACK IN THE DISTRICT. WHEN YOU REQUEST YOUR MEETING, IF YOUR MEMBER IS UNAVAILABLE BECAUSE HE OR SHE WHEN THEY'RE HOME, THEY ARE VERY BUSY. THE SCHEDULER OR ANOTHER STAFF PERSON MIGHT MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO MEET WITH POLICY AIDE, A LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT, A STAFFER. WHICH IS PERFECTLY WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY JUST LIKE MEETING WITH THAT MEMBER. MEMBERS, POLICYMAKERS HAVE STAFF THAT COVER SPECIFIC PORTFOLIO AREA WHERE HE OR SHE IS AN EXPERT AND REPORTS UP TO THAT MEMBER OF CONGRESS. MEETING WITH A STAFFER ESTABLISHING A RELATIONSHIP WITH THAT STAFFER, PROVIDING INFORMATION AND YOUR EXPERTISE IS REALLY A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY. IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE STAFFER'S NAME, THE SCHEDULER WILL POINT YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. PLEASE KNOW IF THE MEMBER CAN'T MEET WITH YOU, PLEASE MAKE THAT MEETING WITH THE STAFFER. STAFFERS REALLY DO ALL THE WORK. AN IMPORTANT THING WHEN YOU GOT YOUR MEETING SCHEDULED, YOU WANT TO SIT DOWN BEFORE YOU GO TO THAT MEETING TO PLAN, TO MAKE SURE YOU WILL MAKE BEST USE OF YOUR TIME. YOU'RE GOING TO THINK ABOUT WHO'S BEST TO ATTEND. PERHAPS ONE OR TWO STAFF FROM YOUR PROGRAM. MAYBE YOU HAVE A SURVIVOR THAT WOULD LIKE TO GO AND SHARE HIS OR HER EXPERIENCE. MAY BE A BUSINESS

LEADER, A BOARD MEMBER. THINK ABOUT WHO YOU WANT TO BE IN THAT ROOM AND THINK ABOUT THE MATERIALS YOU WILL WANT TO BRING WITH YOU. AT THE TOP OF THIS WEBINAR, TERRI SHOWED YOU AND TALKED THROUGH AND WE'VE PUT IN THE CHAT ALL THE MATERIALS THAT THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE HAVE PUT TOGETHER. MAKE SURE TO BRING YOUR OWN MATERIALS WITH YOU. BEFORE YOU GET INTO THAT MEETING, TALK ABOUT -- THINK ABOUT WHO'S GOING TO SAY WHAT. WHO'S GOING TO MAKE THE ASK. WHO'S GOING TO EXPLAIN WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR COMMUNITY. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT IF THERE'S THREE PEOPLE IN THE MEETING, EACH OF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY AND CONTRIBUTE. ALSO, IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE PREPARED WHEN YOU WALK INTO THAT MEETING. WHAT BACKGROUND INFORMATION DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ELECTED OFFICIAL, THE POLICYMAKER? WHAT COMMITTEES DOES HE OR SHE SERVE ON? HOW LONG HAVE THEY BEEN IN OFFICE? WHAT PARTY ARE THEY FROM? YOU CAN GO THROUGH THEIR PRESS RELEASES WHICH WILL BE ON THEIR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW OR SHE VOTES. WHAT ARE THEIR PRIORITY ISSUES. YOU WANT TO BE PREPARED AS POSSIBLE ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY AND WHAT YOU WANT TO ASK AND ALSO ABOUT WHO YOU GOING IN TO MEET WITH. SOME THINGS TO EXPECT. IF YOU HAVE SCHEDULED A MEETING WITH THE MEMBER, THE MEMBER MIGHT NOT STAY FOR THE WHOLE MEETING. THAT'S BECAUSE HE OR SHE IS TRYING TO MEET AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE WHILE THEY ARE HOME DURING RECESS. THEY MIGHT BE COME TO THE MEETING FOR 10 OR 15 MINUTES AND HAVE TO JUMP OUT. DON'T FEEL INSULTED. THAT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME. THEY'LL LEAVE STAFF THERE TO FINISH THE MEETING. DON'T BE SURPRISED IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN. IT COULD ALSO HAPPEN IF YOU THINK YOU WILL MEET A MEMBER AND SOMETHING COMES AND YOU WILL MEET A STAFFER. THAT IS COMPLETELY NORMAL. MAY BE THEY ALSO HAVE TO CHANGE THE LOCATION OF YOUR MEETING OR THE TIME. TRY JUST GO WITH

THE FLOW ON THAT. IT'S REALLY NOT -- THEY NOT TRYING TO BE RUDE. IT'S JUST THEY ARE VERY BUSY AND SCHEDULES ARE ALWAYS CHANGING. LASTLY, SOME FOLKS MAY BE SURPRISED SOME APPEAR QUITE YOUNG. THERE'S A LOT OF YOUNG, ENTHUSIASTIC STAFFERS THAT WORK BOTH IN THE DISTRICT AND IN THE WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE. THEY ARE VERY SMART. THEY'RE UP TO SPEED ON EVERYTHING AND ONCE AGAIN, YOU'RE THE EXPERT. YOU'RE THE RESOURCE THEY'RE GOING TO BE SO EXCITED TO MEET WITH YOU AND LEARN FROM YOU. THEY WANT TO BE AS EFFECTIVE AS POSSIBLE STAFFER TO THEIR MEMBER. WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH YOUR MEETING, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THERE'S TIME TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS, STAFF OR THE MEMBER HAVE. ALSO, AT THE CONCLUSION, IT'S WONDERFUL IF YOU LIKE TO TAKE A PICTURE WITH THE MEMBER OR THE STAFFER. PLEASE BE SURE TO ASK THEM IF THAT'S OKAY IF YOU HAVE A PICTURE. THEN ASK IF YOU CAN POST IT ON SOCIAL MEDIA LATER. NINE TIMES OUT OF TEN, THE MEMBER WILL SAY YES, PLEASE. THEY WANT TO BE SEEN MEETING AND CONVERSING WITH THAN CONSTITUENTS. PLEASE ASK BEFORE YOU START TAKING PICTURES. ALSO, MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHAT FOLLOW-UP INFORMATION YOU PROMISE TO SEND AND LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU WILL SEND IT WHEN YOU'RE BACK HOME. IF YOU DON'T KNOW AN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, PLEASE DON'T FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE TO MAKE IT UP. PLEASE DON'T FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE TO KNOW THE ANSWER TO EVERY QUESTION. ALL YOU NEED TO SAY, I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THAT. I WANT TO GIVE YOU ACCURATE INFORMATION. I WILL FOLLOW-UP WITH THAT INFORMATION AFTER THE MEETING. LASTLY, PLEASE, I HOPE YOU'LL CONSIDER INVITING THE MEMBER AND OUR STAFF TO SEE YOUR PROGRAM TO AN EVENT TO KEEP THAT ONGOING RELATIONSHIP. TO KEEP THAT DIALOGUE GOING. TO KEEP THEM ENGAGED IN THE CONVERSATION YOU JUST STARTED DURING YOUR MEETING. ONCE YOU GET HOME, IT'S VERY NICE TO PLEASE SEND A THANK YOU NOTE. THANKING STAFF AND A MEMBER FOR

HIS OR HER TIME IS ALWAYS SOMETHING WE CAN AGREE ON. EVERYONE IS BUSY. SENDING AN E-MAIL FOLLOW-UP THANK YOU IS A PERFECT WAY TO GET IN THAT PERSON'S INBOX. THANK THEM FOR THEIR TIME. PROVIDING ANY INFORMATION YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO SHARE. YOU CAN ALSO LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU POSTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA IF THAT IS SOMETHING YOU POSTED A PICTURE ON. ALSO, YOU CAN ALSO ALWAYS ASK ABOUT UPCOMING TOWN HALL EVENTS OR EVENTS THE MEMBER IS GOING TO BE AT. YOU CAN ATTEND AND KEEP UP WITH WHAT THE POLICYMAKER IS TALKING ABOUT AND WHAT HIS OR HER PRIORITIES ARE AND BE WITH OTHER CONSTITUENT WHO ARE SHARING INFORMATION TO THAT POLICY MAKER IN A TOWN HALL OR OTHER COMMUNITY EVENT. WE'RE GOING TO STOP THERE NOW AND GET READY FOR ANOTHER POLL. >> GREAT, ELLEN. THANK YOU SO MUCH. BEFORE WE TURN IT OVER TO OUR GUEST SPEAKER, WE HAVE A SECOND POLL FOR YOU. WHAT DO YOU FIND IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND INSPIRING POLICYMAKER TO SUPPORT SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES AND PREVENTION DATA, STORIES, SURVIVOR ACTIVISTS, PROGRAM TOUR OR CALLS AND E-MAILS TO THEIR OFFICE. OKAY, I AM ACTUALLY LOST THE POLL. I CAN'T REPORT ABOUT IT. MY APOLOGIES. THERE WE GO. GOSH, OVER HALF OF YOU ALL THOUGHT STORIES. I THINK STORIES ARE SO COMPELLING. ALMOST 20% THOUGHT DATA AND A NUMBER OF YOU THOUGHT SURVIVOR ACTIVISTS. GREAT. DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ONE OR THE OTHER. WE WILL TALK ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO WEAVE STORIES AND DATA AND THE REAL LIVED EXPERIENCES OF SURVIVORS TOGETHER TO BE REALLY EFFECTIVE. THANK YOU SO MUCH. NOW I'M EXCITED THAT WE HAVE TWO GUEST SPEAKERS TO TALK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE. ELIZABETH AS AN ADVOCATE AND ANDRE LINDSAY AS PROFESSIONAL STAFF WITH THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN THE WORKFORCE IN THE HOUSE. ON HIS EXPERIENCE IN RECEIVING ADVOCATES DOING THESE SORTS OF MEETINGS AND WHAT THEY FIND TO BE EFFECTIVE IN TERMS HAVING MEETINGS WITH ABOUT ISSUES YOU

CARE ABOUT. I'M EXCITED TO WELCOME ANDRE LINDSAY AND ELIZABETH NEWMAN WHO'S THE PUBLIC POLICY DIRECTOR FROM THE COLORADO COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT. ANDRE, I'M GOING TO TURN IT OVER TO YOU. >> HI, EVERYONE. THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME TODAY. AS TERRI MENTIONED, I'M ANDRE LINDSAY. UNDER RANKING MEMBER BOBBY SCOTT. LITTLE BIT ABOUT ME. I'VE BEEN WITH THE COMMITTEE FOR ABOUT SEVEN YEARS. ALMOST SEVEN YEARS. THIS IS MY FIRST JOB OUTSIDE OF COLLEGE. I WAS AN INTERN, STAFF ASSISTANT AND NOW I WORK ON THE POLICY SIDE OF THINGS. I'M EXCITED TO SPEAK WITH YOU ALL. I HAVE A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE. WHEN I WAS A INTERN, I WAS THE ONE SCHEDULING THE MEETINGS. NOW, I'M LEADING THE MEETINGS. I AM THE POLICY LEAD FOR EVERYTHING CHILD WELFARE FOR THE COMMITTEE AND THINGS IN THE HEALTH AND WELFARE SPACE. TO ECHO WHAT ELLEN SAID, SOME STAFFERS YOU MEET ON HILL IS VERY YOUNG. WE DO OUR BACKGROUND. WE TRY OUR BEST TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE. YOU ARE THE EXPERTS. WE RELY ON YOU. REALLY QUICK, ANYTHING I SAY ON THE CALL TODAY IS MY OWN PERSONAL THOUGHT AND NOTHING OFFICIAL FROM THE COMMITTEE. THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE TO SHARE YOUR PERSPECTIVES AND THOUGHTS WITH US. I THOUGHT I DIVE INTO EXPLAINING THE IMPORTANCE OF ADVOCACY FOR HILL STAFF AS MYSELF. IT REALLY PROVIDES THAT PERSPECTIVE FOR STAFF. HERE IN WASHINGTON D.C., SOMETIMES WE'RE KIND OF IN A BUBBLE. IT'S HARD TO SEE WHAT ACTUALLY GOES ON OUTSIDE IN THE DISTRICT. IT'S GREAT TO SEE THAT AND SEE THOSE CONCERNS AND ISSUES. TO BE HONEST, YOU ALL KNOW WHAT WORKS WELL AND WHAT DOESN'T WORK WELL. I AM PRETTY REALISTIC. I KNOW THAT SOMETIMES THE POLICY WE CREATE ON THE HILL DON'T REALLY MATCH REALITY. WE DEPEND ON YOU ALL TO CONVEY THAT TO US AND DIFFERENT ANGLES AND DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES. WE REALLY DEPEND ON ADVOCACY TO HELP GUIDE US IN NEGOTIATIONS, OUR BILL WRITING, STRATEGY, OVERSIGHT. I'M ALWAYS THINKING, WHAT ADVOCATES GOING TO

SAY. ARE THEY GOING TO BE MAD AT ME AND IS IT GOING TO COME ACROSS WELL. YOU ALL KNOW THE DYNAMICS. OFTENTIMES AFTER THE MEETINGS I'LL CALL ELLEN, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS. IT'S REALLY CRITICAL TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON THE GROUND. THEN, I THINK I'LL DIVE INTO WHAT THIS BRINGS TO THE TABLE. ELLEN WENT THROUGH ABOUT WEAVING IN STORIES AND DATA AND HAVING A BALANCE. I THINK THAT'S VERY CRITICAL. A LOT OF TIMES WHEN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT COMING TO THE HILL AND CONVEYING DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES, WE RELY ON ANECDOTES AND TESTIMONIES AND STAKEHOLDER STORIES. WHICH IS IMMENSELY HELPFUL. I THINK IT GRABS OUR ATTENTION AT FIRST. BUT ALSO TOO, IT HELPED TO BALANCE THAT OUT WITH THAT DATA THAT RESEARCH THAT EVIDENCE. FROM MY BOSS, THAT'S WHAT GUIDES THE POLICY. NOT SAYING THAT SURVIVOR STORY IS NOT IMPORTANT, IT'S HELPFUL FOR US. ALSO MAKING SURE YOU CONVEY THAT WITH THE STAFF TO RESEARCH. TO BE HONEST ON OUR END, THAT HELPS US REALLY WORK ON OUR END AND WORK WITH OTHER OFFICES. ONCE YOU BRING IN STATS RELATED TO DISTRICT AND HOW MANY SURVIVORS DEPEND ON CERTAIN RESOURCE IN THE DISTRICT. IT'S HARD TO FIGHT AGAINST THAT. WE WANT TO RELY ON THAT. WHENEVER IT COMES TO MY BOSS WITH POLICY, IDEA OR PROPOSAL, HE'S LIKE WHAT ARE THE NUMBERS AND RESEARCH ON THAT. HE'S A BIG NUMBER PERSON. ALSO, THAT'S WHY I WOULD ADVISE FOLKS WHEN YOU COMING TO CHAT WITH US, YOU COME PREPARED WITH THOSE MATERIALS AND KNOWING WHO WILL HANDLE THAT. WE REALLY WANT TO SEE WHAT'S WORKED ON THE GROUND AND WHAT'S NOT WORKING ON THE GROUND. KIND OF END WITH WE LOVE HAVING SPECIFIC ASKS. WHEN FOLKS COMING TO SEE U S. NOT JUST TO SUPPORT AB AND C, WHAT BILL YOU WANT TO GET ON. WHAT FUNDING LINE DO YOU WANT US TO SUPPORT. IN TERMS OF WHAT REGULATION DO YOU WANT TO TALK TO THE DEPARTMENT ABOUT. WHAT CONCERNS DO YOU HAVE. IT HELPS US, ESPECIALLY AS STAFF WHO HAVE MULTIPLE MEETINGS, TO REALLY DO OUR

RESEARCH AHEAD OF TIME. I DO WANT TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE BEFORE IT COMES TO THIS MEETING. IT'S HELPFUL. WE WILL DO OUR BACKGROUND. I WILL SAY A LOT TIMES WHEN WE WALK INTO A MEETING -- WE STILL HAPPY TO DISCUSS. REALLY COMING WITH THOSE SPECIFIC ASKS, GROWER TALKING ABOUT A BILL, COME IN WITH A BILL NUMBER AND REALLY DOING THAT RESEARCH ON THE SPECIFICS. I THINK OF IT AS, BACKGROUND, WHATEVER THE ASK IS ON THE SPECIFICS, THE RATIONALE WHAT DATA WILL COME IN PLAY AND WHAT THE ACTION ITEMS. WHAT YOU NEED FROM US. WHAT ISSUE YOU WANT TO PUSH ON OUR COMMITTEE OR IN CONGRESS. THAT'S ALL HELPFUL. SPECIFICALLY, I WANT TO COMMENT ON SOMETHING THAT ELLEN MADE NOTE OF, DO YOUR RESEARCH. I THINK THAT'S IMMENSELY IMPORTANT. IT'S ONE THING TO COME INTO A MEETING SAY CAN YOUR BOSS SUPPORT THIS BILL. IF YOU KNOW THAT THE MEMBER IS SUPPORTED THE BILL AND YOU KNOW THEY ARE ON A CERTAIN COMMITTEE, YOUR ASK CAN BE HOW CAN YOU LEVERAGE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER MEMBERS ON THIS ISSUE. HOW CAN YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE TO GET YOUR POINT ACROSS. JUST KNOWING THOSE THINGS CAN BE HELPFUL. YOU CAN THINK ABOUT HOW TO MAKE USE OF THAT TIME. REALLY, YOU ONLY HAD THAT 30 MINUTE WINDOW. YOU REALLY WANT TO BE STRATEGIC IN WHAT YOU PUT IN THAT WINDOW. I WANT TO GO THROUGH THOSE ASKS AND BACKGROUND. LAST FIVE MINUTES IS A WRAP-UP. TO BE HONEST, I'M THINKING ABOUT MY NEXT MEETING. WHAT I HAVE NEXT. ALSO, TOO, IF YOU RUN OUT OF TIME, WE'RE ALWAYS HAPPY TO GET MORE FOLLOW-UPS. IT'S ALWAYS. IT KEEPS YOU TOP OF MIND WHEN YOU FOLLOW-UP WITH US. ESPECIALLY IF THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE OR ADDITIONAL RESEARCH FROM A DISTRICT THAT YOU'RE ABLE TO PROVIDE. FOLLOW-UP IS CRITICAL FOR US. THEN, THAT'S KIND OF HOW WE THINK ABOUT WHEN YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO MEET WITH US. ELLEN MENTIONED, OUT OF SESSION IS GOOD TIME TO MEET WITH FOLKS. THEY'RE NOT SO INUNDATED WITH THE MEMBER SCHEDULE. THEY TEND TO HAVE MORE FREE

TIME OUT OF SESSION. THAT KIND OF WRAPS UP MY TAKES ON MEETING WITH COMMITTEE STAFF. I WANT TO FOLLOW-UP AN FEW THINGS THAT ELLEN SAID. YOU ALL ARE REALLY THE EXPERTS. YOUR ROLE IS SIGNIFICANT TO US. YOU HAVE THE BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE AND THAT EXPERIENCE. IF THERE ARE TIMES WE'RE IN A MEETING AND AFTER OUR MEETING I CALL ELLEN OR I CALL SOMEBODY -- [INDISCERNIBLE] I THINK THAT'S A GOOD SIGN. WE ALWAYS HAVE TO DEPEND ON STAKEHOLDERS OR ADVOCATES AS A RESOURCE. WE DON'T WANT TO BE POLICY BLIND. WE'RE INTENTION ABOUT THAT. ELLEN MENTIONED ABOUT RESPECT RUNNING EACH OTHER'S VIEWS. STAFF WE HAVE LIMITATIONS. WHEN YOU WALK OUT OF A MEETING, YOU MAY NOT HEAR THE YES YOU WANT. WE NEED TO RUN THINGS UP OUR CHAIN. WE NEED TO DO OUR HOMEWORK. DON'T BE OFFENDED IF THE STAFF IS NODDING OR ASKING QUESTIONS BUT THEY'RE NOT COMMITTING TO ANYTHING. THEY WANT TO DO THEIR HOMEWORK. ONE MORE THING, MEMBER AND STAFF LEVEL, AS ELLEN SAID, DON'T TAKE OFFENSE IF YOU REQUEST A MEMBER MEETING AND YOU GET STAFF MEETING. THEIR SCHEDULES ARE PACKED. TRUST ME, THE STAFF NORMALLY CONVEY WHAT'S DISCUSSED IN THAT MEETING. WHAT YOU'RE SAYING DOES GET ACROSS TO THE MEMBER. THE SCHEDULE IS WAY PACKED SOMETIMES. I THINK THAT WAS KIND OF EVERYTHING THAT I WANTED TO REALLY RUN THROUGH. AGAIN, APPRECIATE YOU TAKING THE TIME TO COME UP TO THE HILL AND TALK TO US. SOMETIMES WE DO GET TRAPPED IN A BUBBLE. WE'RE HAPPY TO KEEP CHATTING. THANK YOU SO MUCH. >> THANK YOU, SO MUCH ANDRE. ELIZABETH, WE HOPE YOU CAN JUMP IN. >> THANK YOU, TERRI. I'M ELIZABETH NEWMAN. I'M THE PUBLIC POLICY DIRECTOR FOR COLORADO COALITION. WE HAVE MOSTLY -- I BEEN COCOSA. THEN, AS WE FACED A LOT OF BOTH URGENCY AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL WITH THE VOCA CRISIS AS WELL AS RUNNING OUT OF ARPA DOLLARS HERE TO SUSTAIN SOME OF THOSE FUNDS FOR SERVICES, WE WERE GETTING SOME COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM OUR STATE LEADERS ON WHAT

WE WERE DOING TO PUSH CONGRESS TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM SINCE IT IS VERY MUCH A PROBLEM THAT WAS COMING FROM THE FEDERAL LEVEL. WE STARTED TO REACH OUT TO OUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO REALLY BRING ATTENTION TO THE IMPACT OF THE VOCA CUTS IN COLORADO AND STARTED WITH A COALITION LETTER FROM OUR COALITION, THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITION, VIOLENCE FREE COLORADO, AS WELL AS THE COLORADO ORGANIZATION FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE. THE THREE OF OUR COALITIONS HAVE BEEN WORKING REALLY CLOSELY TOGETHER ON ADVOCATING FOR STATE BUDGET FUNDING. WE HAVE NATURALLY EVOLVED THIS COALITION EFFORT TO THE FEDERAL LEVEL. WE SENT A LETTER DETAILING THE IMPACT TO COLORADO AND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS CRISIS AND THE REQUEST THAT WE HAVE FOR VOCA FUNDING TO BE OTHER FUNDING TO BE FOUND. . EVERY MEMBER OF CONGRESS AND OUR SENATORS HERE. THEN, WE HAD OUR LOBBYIST FOLLOW-UP. WE HAVE A STATE LOBBYIST. WE HAVE TWO LOBBYIST THAT WE SHARE BETWEEN THREE OF US. WHILE THEY ARE FOCUSED ON STATE LEGISLATION, A LOT OF OUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE BEEN STATE LEGISLATORS PREVIOUSLY. THEY HAD SOME RELATIONSHIPS EITHER WITH FOLKS IN THEIR STAFF OFFICE, THEIR DISTRICT OFFICE OR THE MEMBER THEMSELVES. THEY HELPED FOLLOW-UP AND REQUEST MEETINGS EITHER WITH THE MEMBER THEMSELVES OR WITH STAFF WE GOT RESPONSE FROM ABOUT HALF OF THEM. FOR SEVERAL OF THOSE, THEY WERE WITH A MEMBER OF STAFF WHICH AS WE FOUND -- ANDRE MENTIONED, THEY WERE REALLY ENGAGED. THEY TOOK A LOT OF NOTES. THEY WERE REALLY WANTING TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF VOCA CUTS FOR OUR STATE. THEN WE ALSO HAD AN INTEREST FROM ONE OF OUR NEWER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. I DO FIND THIS TO BE TRUE THAT OFTENTIMES NEWER MEMBERS ARE REALLY ENGAGED TO GET THEMSELVES OUT THERE IN THEIR COMMUNITY AND THEY ARE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO DO THAT. ACTUALLY, A REPRESENTATIVE WHO WAS IN HER FIRST TERM,

RESPONDED AND WANTED TO DO A ROUNDTABLE IN DISTRICT. WE WERE ABLE TO DO THAT AND BRING REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH OF OUR COALITIONS AS WELL AS OUR LOCAL RAPE CRISIS CENTER. I WILL SAY, BRINGING LOCAL PROGRAMS TO THOSE MEETINGS WAS INCREDIBLY HELPFUL. IT WAS SOMEONE WHO CAN SAY THIS IS HOW MANY SURVIVORS WE SERVE. THIS HOW MUCH OUR BUDGET IS MADE UP FROM GRANTS THAT ARE THROUGH VOCA AS WELL AS HOW MANY STAFF THEY MIGHT HAVE TO LAY OFF OR WHAT TYPES OF PROGRAMS THEY MIGHT HAVE TO CUT BACK ON. THAT REALLY MADE A DIFFERENCE IN BRINGING THE MEMBER TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT WILL LOOK LIKE FOR THEIR COMMUNITY. WE HAD STATE LEVEL DATA AND INFORMATION BUT TO HEAR IT ABOUT A SPECIFIC PROGRAM THAT'S IN OUR DISTRICT THAT'S SERVING OUR CONSTITUENTS REALLY BROUGHT IT HOME IN A LOT OF WAYS. I THINK THAT WAS REALLY HELPFUL. I WILL ALSO SAY THAT THOSE DISTRICTS SPECIFIC NEEDS, IDENTIFYING SOME OF THE TOUGH ISSUES THAT ARE CONNECTED TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE. MAY BE RECENT NEWS REPORTS MENTIONING THOSE AND CONNECTING THOSE CAN BE HELPFUL. COLORADO IS EXPERIENCING A LOT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS AND ISSUES WITH THOSE FUNDING AND SERVICES AND THE ABILITY FOR US TO MENTION VICTIM SERVICES AND OUR ADVOCACY EFFORTS AS BEING CONNECTED AND TIED TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES BROUGHT A LOT MORE ATTENTION. UNFORTUNATELY, SURVIVORS ON A WHOLE. THE OTHER THING I WANTED TO SHARE IS WE HAVE GOTTEN A LOT OF FEEDBACK THAT LEGISLATORS BOTH AT OUR STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL, DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT VICTIM SERVICES ARE AND THE VOCA FUNDING AND HOW IT COMES DOWN AND HOW MUCH OF AN IMPACT THESE CUTS WILL MAKE. ONE THING THAT WE HAVE REALIZED WAS AVOIDING THE WORDS LIKE VICTIM SERVICES OR CRIME VICTIM SERVICES. INSTEAD, GIVING EXAMPLES WHAT THOSE LOOK LIKE AND HOW THEY IMPACT A SURVIVOR'S EXPERIENCE TOWARDS HEALING. IT WAS REALLY BENEFICIAL AS WELL AS DESCRIBING HOW MUCH OF A

PROGRAM'S BUDGET VOCA COMPRISES. I THINK A LOT OF LEGISLATORS THINK ONE CUTS TO ONE FUNDING IS SOMETHING THAT CAN BE MADE UP ELSEWHERE. WHEN WE COMMUNICATED THAT SOME OF OUR PROGRAMS, THIS 3/4 OF THEIR BUDGET, THAT REALLY BROUGHT HOME TO THEM, THIS IS NOT SOMETHING WE CAN FUNDRAISE OUR WAY OUT OF. THAT'S BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE STATE FUNDING IN COLORADO. WE ARE REALLY AT THE WHIM OF FEDERAL FLUCTUATIONS AND VOCA. WITHOUT OF THE OTHER -- ONE OF THE OTHER THINGS THAT WAS HELPFUL WAS TO MENTION THE VOCA FIX ACT. I DO THINK A NUMBER OF MEMBERS ARE AWARE OF IT. IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR US TO THANK THEM FOR TAKING ACTION AND TO LET THEM KNOW IT WASN'T ENOUGH. ANOTHER PIECE OF THAT IS TO THANK THEM FOR THE WORK THAT THEY'VE DONE ON ISSUES RELATED TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE. IF THEY'VE EVEN JUST VOTED FOR OR IF THEY BROUGHT ATTENTION TO ISSUES THAT ARE RELEVANT FOR OUR PROGRAMS OR FOR OUR MOVEMENT FOR SURVIVORS IT'S VALUABLE TO THANK THEM FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE. ENCOURAGING THEM TO MOVE FORWARD AND CONTINUE TO ACT. ONE OF THE LAST THINGS I THINK THAT WAS HELPFUL IS THAT WE WERE PUTTING THE PRESSURE ON BOTH OUR STATE AND FEDERAL LEADERS AT THE SAME TIME. BECAUSE OF THE WAY THAT THIS SITUATION IS REALLY DRIVEN AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, SOME OF OUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WERE INTERESTED IN PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNOR AND MEMBERS OF OUR STATE LEGISLATURE TO FIND THE FUNDING AND VICE VERSA OUR GOVERNOR AND MEMBERS OF OUR STATE LEADERS, LEADERSHIP WERE PUTTING PRESSURE ON THEIR CONGRESSIONAL COUNTERPARTS IN ORDER TO PUSH BOTH OF THEM TO SAY, WHAT ARE WE DOING AND HOW ARE WE FIXING THIS. OVERALL, THOSE COMBINED EFFORTS REALLY HELP TO ELEVATE AWARENESS AND ENSURE THAT WE REMAIN TOP OF MIND WHEN IT CAME DOWN TO BUDGETS AND FUNDING. I THINK THAT'S ABOUT IT IN TERMS OF HOW WE REALLY TRY TO INCREASE OUR ADVOCACY AROUND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. WE DID ALSO HOST

A FUNDING TOUR, OUR SITE VISIT. THAT WAS ACTUALLY FOR OUR STATE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE AND LEADERSHIP. I DO RECOMMEND THOSE REALLY HELPED FOR LEGISLATORS TO BE ABLE TO SEE. WE DID IT OUT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER. WE DID WHERE THEY WERE ABLE TO GO AND TOUR THE SHELTER AND COME BACK TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES THAT ARE IN SEPARATE LOCATION. WE HAD A PRESENTATION FROM OUR LARGEST RAPE CRISIS CENTER TO TALK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR SERVICES. THAT REALLY DID HELP CONNECT US AS WELL. IT'S THE ABILITY TO SEE A SPACE ALWAYS MAKES PEOPLE UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S LIKE TO SEEK THOSE SERVICES AND WHAT GOES INTO PROVIDING THEM. THANK YOU FOR THE TIME TO TALK TODAY. TERRI AND EVERYONE. GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR ADVOCACY. >> THANKS, SO MUCH, ELIZABETH. THANK YOU ANDRE. I DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING MORE. WE'RE GOING TO GO INTO THE LAST SECTION OF THE WEBINAR. YOU BOTH GAVE SUCH GREAT ADVICE AND HANDS ON EXAMPLES OF EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY. THANK YOU SO MUCH. I'M GOING TO TRY AND SUMMARIZE WHAT YOU BOTH SAID. WHAT I WAS TRYING TO GET AT THE BEGINNING WHEN I STARTED TALKING ABOUT ADVOCACY IS, IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO GIVE, LEAVE BEHIND MATERIALS. IT MIGHT BE OLD SCHOOL. YOU CAN DO IT. YOU CAN EMAIL IT. YOU CAN SCAN IT. YOU CAN BRING THE PAPER. I'M OLD SCHOOL. I LIKE PAPER. THAT'S YOUR LEAVE BEHIND. THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE THE INFORMATION AFTER YOU LEAVE. HOPEFULLY, THEY WILL FILE IT AWAY IN THEIR SEXUAL ASSAULT FOLDER WITH OTHER GOOD INFORMATION. YOUR STORY, YOUR TALKING POINTS YOUR ANECDOTES ARE UNBELIEVABLY POWERFUL. EFFECTIVE LAWMAKERS ALSO NEED TO BASE DECISIONS ON EVIDENCE, NEED, DATA, EVALUATION, THE SCIENCE. IT'S A ONE-TWO COMBO. SOME MEMBERS LIKE RANKING MEMBER SCOTT, ARE NUMBERS PEOPLE. GIVE ME THE EVIDENCE. MAKE ME UNDERSTAND WHY THIS IS NEEDED. THEN, OTHERS ARE LIKE, OH MY GOSH, I GOT SO MANY NUMBERS AND EVALUATIONS IN MY HEAD. PLEASE GIVE

ME AN ANECDOTE. MAKE THIS REAL FOR ME. EVERY STAFFER AFTER STATE LOBBYIST AND EVERY FEDERAL LOBBYIST WOULD AGREE THAT THE COMBINATION OF BOTH YOUR PERSONAL STORIES AND HARD EVIDENCE IS A HOME RUN. WHEN YOU'RE GOING IN TO HAVE THESE CONVERSATIONS WHETHER IT'S A DISTRICT LEVEL OR IF YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO COME TO D.C., YOU REALLY NEED TO MAKE YOUR FEDERAL LAWMAKERS UNDERSTAND HOW CRITICALLY IMPORTANT FEDERAL FUNDING IS. I'M GOING TO BE HONEST. WE ALL ARE HONEST. WE ARE IN A FISCALLY TIGHT BUDGET SITUATION THIS YEAR. AS TERRI MENTIONED AT THE TOP OF THE WEBINAR, THERE'S A LAWYER RIGHT NOW CALLED THE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT WHICH SETS SPECIFIC DISCRETIONARY SPENDING CAPS. WE ARE ADVOCATES. WE HAVE TO MAKE THE CASE THAT VAWA, VOCA AND RPE ARE CRITICAL FUNDING STREAMS IN OUR COMMUNITIES. WHAT PEOPLE, THESE FUNDING STREAMS ARE HELPING, SPECIFICALLY. UNMET NEEDS THAT VICTIMS HAVE. UNMET NEEDS THAT FAMILIES HAVE. THE WAITING LIST. THE WAITING LIST TO GET INTO THERAPY. THE WAITING LIST TO GET INTO THERAPY BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ON STAFF. THE DEMAND FOR SERVICES IS ONLY INCREASING AS ELIZABETH WAS JUST SAYING. WE HAVE TO MAKE THIS REAL FOR THE POLICYMAKERS EVEN WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING WE KNOW WE'RE IN A FISCALLY TIGHT BUDGET SITUATION. THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE HAS PROVIDED ALL THE BIG PICTURE INFO GRAPHICS, EVIDENCE, STATS, NATIONAL SURVEYS THAT WE THINK WILL HELP YOU AND TO LEAVE BEHIND WITH YOUR MEMBERS. OF COURSE, WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL SUPPLEMENT THAT WITH SPECIFIC EXAMPLES FROM YOUR COMMUNITY. YOU'RE GOING TO TELL YOUR TALKING POINTS. WE KNOW THAT THE BOTTOM LINE IS WE WANT CONGRESS TO ACT. WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT EVEN IN A TIGHT BUDGET SITUATION, WE MUST AS STRONG ADVOCATES, ADVOCATE FOR THE NEEDS OF SURVIVORS AND PREVENTION SERVICES WE KNOW

THAT ARE NECESSARY TO STOP SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN EVERY COMMUNITY AROUND THE COUNTRY. KEY POINTS. HOW MANY SURVIVORS DO YOU SERVE? WAITING LISTS. THE NEEDS. WHAT UNIQUE THINGS ARE YOU SEEING IN YOUR COMMUNITY. WE ARE PAST COVID. COVID IS STILL PART OF OUR LIVES. WE'RE POST-COVID. HOW HAS THAT CHANGED WHAT YOU'RE SEEING IN YOUR COMMUNITY? YOU'RE THE EXPERT. YOU'RE THE EYES AND EARS. THIS KIND OF INFORMATION IS SO CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS. SPECIFICALLY, TO WE WANT \$100 MILLION FOR SASP. THE SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES PROGRAM. \$1.9 BILLION IN FUNDING FOR THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT. \$100 MILLION FOR THE RAPE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM AND \$30 MILLION FOR OUR NEW SEXUAL ASSAULT DEMONSTRATION INITIATIVE. I BELIEVE STRONGLY, I WANT TO LEAVE YOU WITH THIS, I HAD A MEETING EARLIER TODAY WHERE I HAD A TEST THIS OUT. I WAS MEETING WITH A FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE MEMBER. I ACKNOWLEDGED THAT I UNDERSTAND THE BUDGET CAPS, I WANTED HIM TO UNDERSTAND THE NEED AND THE ONGOING NEED IN ALL THE VICTIMS THAT WE ARE NOT CURRENTLY SERVING. THEY NEEDED TO TAKE THAT INTO ACCOUNT AS CONGRESS MAKES BUDGET DECISIONS IN THE COMING MONTHS. >> GREAT, THANK YOU SO MUCH. WE'RE GETTING READY TO WRAP UP NOW. WE HOPE WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO SHARE SOME INFORMATION WITH YOU THAT'S USEFUL THAT YOU CAN USE THE TIMELINE THAT WE PROVIDED TO THINK ABOUT WHEN AND HOW YOU WANT TO SET UP YOUR MEETINGS. USE SOME OF THE RESOURCES AND THAT YOU FEEL EMPOWERED TO GET OUT THERE AND MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD WITH YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS, WHO MAKE SUCH A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF SURVIVORS WHO ARE THERE BECAUSE WE'VE ELECTED THEM. THEY REALLY DO WANT TO HEAR FROM US. WE REALLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MEETINGS ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND LET US KNOW HOW THEY GO. THAT'S SO IMPORTANT TO U S. BEFORE WE CLOSE, I WANTED TO TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK EVERYONE

WHO HELPED PUT THIS WEBINAR TOGETHER. A NUMBER OF PEOPLE FROM THE NAESV TEAM BEHIND THE SCENES, MAUREEN, LIV AND CAMILLE CONTRIBUTED. I WANT TO APPRECIATE YOUR CONTRIBUTORS AND OUR GUEST SPEAKERS, ANDRE AND ELIZABETH WHO WERE WONDERFUL. I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR THE WORK YOU DO EVERYDAY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF SURVIVORS AND TO INVEST IN PREVENTION IN YOUR COMMUNITIES. YOU'RE SUCH A HUGE IMPORTANT PART OF WHAT WE DO. INFOGRAPHIC IS BASED ON ALL THE INFORMATION AND LOCAL PROGRAMS ABOUT WHAT YOU YOU'RE FACING. WE KNOW WE HAVE TOUGH TIMES AHEAD. YOUR PROGRAMS, YOUR WORK, YOUR ADVOCACY GIVE US HOPE. WE HOPE YOU STAY IN TOUCH WITH US. WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOU JOINING US TODAY. WE WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK IN YOUR FUTURE ADVOCACY EFFORTS.

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