



Legislative Watch

From the Statehouse to the Capitol

SPECIAL EDITION, March 23, 2007

LEVEL OF FUNDING FOR DV SHELTERS IN QUESTION FOR FY '08 & '09

House Bill 67 contains budget language for the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Ohio Department of Public Safety and the Office of Criminal Justice Services. Current funding for DV shelters is within the OCJS budget under the title of the Domestic Violence Prevention Fund.

Created by OCJS in the last budget bill, the Fund accrued income by adding \$1.50 for every birth and death certificate and by adding \$5.50 for every divorce and dissolution. Based on the funds generated each year (over \$1 million), the Strickland administration decided to allocate \$800,000 of the shelter fund for OCJS operating expenses.

Efforts have been made by ACTION OHIO and ODVN to stop the raid on the Fund. If you would like to help, please call your State Senator's Office in Columbus and urge your Senator to support the allocation of Family Violence Prevention Fund dollars for domestic violence shelters only, NOT for OCJS operating expenses. Only by raising our voices and communicating with state legislators regularly will the message be heard – that DV shelters are important to the local community and more funding is needed to provide direct services to victims and their children.

House Bill 67 will be voted out of committee on Monday (3/26) and voted on the Senate floor on Tuesday (3/27).

[Calls must be made no later than Monday.](#)

For the names and phone numbers of Senators, please refer to www.legislature.state.oh.us.

For more information about this issue, contact Phyllis Carlson-Riehm, Executive Director (614 221-1255).

ACTION OHIO