



Legislative Watch

From the Statehouse to the Capitol

SPECIAL EDITION, March 30, 2007

ACTION OHIO

HOUSE BILL 67 PASSES SHELTERS TO SHARE \$750,000+ PER YEAR IN FY '08 & '09

During deliberations on House Bill 67 in the Ohio Senate, the GOP leadership, in response to DV advocates, included provisions regarding DV shelter funding in an omnibus amendment to the bill. Fortunately, the additional provisions withstood scrutiny by the Conference Committee, which sent the bill on to the Senate and House for concurrence. Legislators voted to concur with the amended bill on Wednesday, March 28th.

Regarding the Family Violence Prevention Fund in the Office of Criminal Justice Services budget, House Bill 67 states that the first \$750,000 collected in fees for birth and death certificates and fees for divorces and dissolutions will be earmarked for DV shelters each year. The next \$400,000 collected in fees will be allocated to OCJS for operating expenses each year. Any additional Fund income from fees will be earmarked for DV shelters.

Because the language concerning the distribution of the Family Violence Prevention Fund applies only to the FY '08-'09 biennial budget, we will have to be prepared to make our voices heard again during future budget negotiations in order to ward off continued and additional raids on the Fund for non-DV shelter purposes.