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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

July 13, 2009

Ms. Catherine Pierce
Acting Director
Office on Violence Against Women
800 K Street, N.W., Suite 920
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Director Pierce:

I am writing today in support of the Alameda County Family Justice Center.

Record numbers of individuals in the California's Bay Area are victims of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault and exploitation, and elder abuse. When seeking help, they are further confronted with a fragmented system of agencies offering related, but uncoordinated, services requiring them to travel to multiple locations and tell personal stories to many strangers. All the while, a family is in crisis and safety is an immediate concern. Many give up and never receive the full range of services needed to achieve a safe and healthy home.

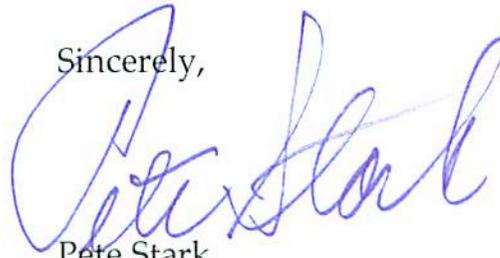
In August 2005, a broad coalition of cities and community-based organizations in California's Alameda County took action and realized a major step forward for victims of family violence through the launch of the Alameda County Family Justice Center (ACFJC). Upon start-up funding received through the President's Family Justice Center Initiative, Office on Violence Against Women, and as one of the first 15 family justice centers established in the nation, the ACFJC now serves as the heart of a comprehensive service delivery system made up of over 100 public and private agencies, enabling victims to easily access immediate crisis intervention, law enforcement, prosecutorial, legal aid, counseling, medical and childcare services all in one location.

In three short years, the ACFJC has grown into a highly effective and comprehensive service delivery program that is achieving remarkable results through improved service delivery to victims, improved offender accountability, and increased operational efficiency.

I thus respectfully urge your approval of a pending proposal before the Office of Violence Against Women for continued funding support to the ACFJC by way of an Enforcement of Arrest Orders Grant. This grant will enable the ACFJC to build on the success of and expand the programs created through the Office of Violence Against Women funded CASE2 Program ("County of Alameda Safety Enforcement and Expansion").

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pete Stark", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Pete Stark
Member of Congress