



Newhouse
PO Box 240019
Kansas City, MO 64124
816.474.6446 • dv hotline 816-HOTLINE
www.newhouseshelter.org

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT:

Melissa Taylor, Vice President of Development
816-474-6446 x230
vpdevelopment@newhouseshelter.org

House Appropriations Committee Cuts State Domestic Violence Funds by 50%

(Kansas City, MO, February 18, 2010) – On Tuesday, February 16, the Missouri House Appropriations Committee for Social Services cut state Domestic Violence Services funding by 50 percent-\$2,375,000.

Newhouse domestic violence shelter depends heavily on Missouri state funding, receiving nearly \$58,000 annually. Newhouse provides vital, life-saving safe shelter and services to women and children who are fleeing domestic violence.

“Since 2007, Newhouse has seen a 40% increase in services during the economic downturn, without simultaneous increases in funding.” says Leslie Caplan, Newhouse President. “Newhouse has gone from serving 605 women and their children in 2007, to an unprecedented 943 women and children in 2009. The shelter is already stretched to do more with less-- decreases in state funding would be devastating.”

“This extraordinary cut to the Governor's budget-- where no cut to domestic violence funding had been proposed—comes as a shock.” says Colleen Coble of the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. “In 2008 alone, 9,089 women and children were turned away from shelters that were full in Missouri. Cutting domestic violence state funding by 50 percent will endanger women and children in every community.”

Domestic violence shelters and other organizations are urging supporters to reach out to their legislators to restore the funding.

About Newhouse

Founded in 1971, the Newhouse mission is to break the cycle of domestic violence by providing tools that allow women to make positive choices and lead self-sufficient lives. In 2009, Newhouse sheltered 943 women and children. www.newhouseshelter.org

###