

ACTION ALERT

From WASAVP

The Washington Association for Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention

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The Action Alert below is again borrowed from the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA). We can have great influence over our Congressional Delegation during the recess in order to save State Grants Portion of the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Funding. To learn more about how this funding is effective across Washington click [here](#) for background information.

Please take action now by clicking scheduling meetings with your congressional delegation or introducing a resolution to your local jurisdiction using the points below. THANK YOU!

Congressional Recess Guide: Opportunities to Weigh in on Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities

As you are likely aware, the full House, as well as the Senate Appropriations Committee have voted to eliminate the State Grants portion of the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC) program. Although Congress is currently in recess, there is still time to weigh in with the members of your congressional delegation, as most of them will be spending extended periods of time in their home state and district offices. **During this time, it is critical that your members hear from you about the importance of restoring funds to this program.**

To that end, CADCA has developed this recess guide, designed to help you maximize your opportunities to weigh in with your congressional delegation; either by setting up appointments to meet directly with your members of Congress, or working with your local government to introduce a resolution in support of restoring funding to the State Grants portion of the SDFSC program, and presenting it to your federal representatives.

How To Schedule an Appointment with Members of Congress

Using CADCA's CapWiz system, <http://capwiz.com/cadca/dbq/officials/> enter your zip code to find the contact information for your members of Congress, and call their home state and district offices directly to schedule an appointment to talk about the State Grants portion of the SDFSC program. Meetings will take place either with your elected officials, and/or their staff person who handles the issue.

When calling, identify yourself and where you are calling from, and request to meet with your elected official and/or their staff on the State Grants portion of the SDFSC program. You may be transferred to speak with a scheduler, or directly to the staff person who handles the SDFSC

program, to schedule the date and time. When transferred, repeat this information to request the appointment.

After the call, follow-up with a fax or email (if email is stated as the preference) including all of the details of when the requested meeting will occur, who will attend, and the topic. Be sure to follow-up as you get closer to the meeting date and confirm the appointment.

Meetings With Your Members of Congress

Meetings will generally last for 15 to 30 minutes so it is important that you prepare in advance to maximize this brief amount of time. Here is a checklist to utilize for your meeting:

- 1) Designate a primary speaker (during the meeting only spend one minute on introductions) – give a brief background on your organization and what you do
- 2) Prepare in advance to concisely educate your member and/or staffer about the importance of restoring funding to the State Grants portion of the SDFSC program – familiarize yourself with:
 - [The State Grants Portion of the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Program Must Be Maintained](#)
 - [President's Budget Request Not a Sound Proposal](#)
 - [The Forgotten Link](#)
 - [The Inextricable Link](#)
 - [PRIDE Survey PowerPoint](#)
- 3) Tell your member that if the State Grants portion of the SDFSC program is eliminated, students in grades K-12 will not receive the messages and effective programming they need to counter emerging and embedded drug trends, as well as bullying and violence issues. Let him/her know that eliminating the State Grants portion of the SDFSC program will:
 - Decimate the school based prevention infrastructures currently in place in schools throughout the country
 - Leave the vast majority of our nation's schools and students with no drug and violence prevention programming at all – which is a major problem because:
 - Data from the most recent Monitoring the Future survey is already showing that attitudes are softening, and that more 10th graders are smoking marijuana than cigarettes
 - The 2009 National PRIDE Survey shows that marijuana use by students in grades 6-8 is rising, and among students in grades 9-12, overall drug use is rising
 - Provide large, time limited, competitive grants to a very small number of recipients that will not be sustainable over time
 - Cause most LEAs throughout the country to lose all of their foundational funding to support school-based drug and violence
 - Cause most LEAs to lose funding and manpower leveraged by the program including the capacity of schools to compete for national grants

- Create an unfunded mandate for data collection and result in the loss of the sub-state data infrastructure that the SDFSC program has provided
- 4) Bring documents to leave behind (such as a one-pager on your organization, and the SDFSC documents prepared by CADCA referenced above)
 - 5) Establish a relationship with your member - ask how you can continue a working relationship with the member and staffer on alcohol and drug issues - offer yourself and your organization as a local resource

Get a Local Resolution in Support of Restoring Funding to the State Grants Portion of SDFSC Introduced

It is important for members of Congress to understand that they have support at the local level. To that end, CADCA has developed a non-binding resolution that can be introduced and subsequently passed through local government channels, and then presented to your elected federal officials encouraging them to restore funding to the State Grants portion of the SDFSC program.

- [Resolution to Restore Funding to the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Program](#)

How To Get A Resolution Introduced

- 1) Identify your strongest ally on your city council and contact his/her office to set up a meeting to discuss the possibility of him/her introducing a resolution in support of restoring funding to the State Grants portion of the SDFSC program
- 2) Designate a primary speaker (during the meeting only spend one minute on introductions) – give a brief background on your coalition and what you do
- 3) During the meeting, **provide the city council member with any local statistics, let him/her know that there is widespread support within the community for this resolution.** Tell your city council member that if the State Grants portion of the SDFSC program is eliminated, students in grades K-12 will not receive the messages and effective programming they need to counter emerging and embedded drug trends, as well as bullying and violence issues. Let him/her know that eliminating the State Grants portion of the SDFSC program will:
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 - [The State Grants Portion of the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Program Must Be Maintained](#)
 - [President's Budget Request Not a Sound Proposal](#)
 - [The Forgotten Link](#)
 - [The Inextricable Link](#)
 - [PRIDE Survey PowerPoint](#)
- 5) Ask the city council member if he/she would consider introducing the resolution in support of restoring funding to the State Grants portion of the SDFSC program
- 6) Let CADCA know how the meeting goes, whether or not your city council member agreed to introduce the resolution, and if it passes.