



Providing Education, Assistance and
Support to Individuals, Programs and
Organizations Dedicated to ending Sexual
Assault and Domestic Violence

October 6, 2010

<Name Nurse Manager>
<hospital>

Dear <Name>:

The Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence is a statewide nonprofit dedicated to engaging voices on the prevention and response to domestic and sexual violence. We have more than eighty domestic violence programs and allied organizational members.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and October 13th is Domestic Violence and Health Day. In 2009, the Idaho State Police reported 6,177 criminal incidents of intimate partner violence. That's one violent incident every 85 minutes.

Domestic violence is a health care issue. Thirty-seven percent of all women who sought care in hospital emergency rooms for violence-related injuries were injured by a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend. Homicide is a leading cause of traumatic death for pregnant and postpartum women in the United States, accounting for thirty-one percent of maternal injury deaths.

For many women, abuse in a relationship starts or gets worse after the baby is born. In June 2009, a young expectant mother in northern Idaho was strangled by her husband. He placed her lifeless body down on a bed and set fire to their apartment. In February 2010, the same day a young woman filed for divorce in southeastern Idaho, her husband shot and killed their 8-month-old son, and then turned the gun on himself.

Infants, children, and adolescents are also negatively impacted by domestic violence. These infants, children, and adolescents are more likely to be physically abused and to exhibit behavioral and physical health problems including depression, anxiety, and violence towards peers.

To help raise awareness of the heightened risk of domestic violence during pregnancy, we have organized the "Let's help number five" campaign. Enclosed are campaign posters in English and Spanish to display in your hospital in Labor/Delivery, New Baby Unit, and other locations where women will see them. Also enclosed are onesies for the

300 E. Mallard Drive, Suite 130
Boise, Idaho 83706
(208) 384-0419
www.idvsa.org

Labor/Delivery unit to give to babies born on October 13th, Domestic Violence and Health Day, and for the remainder of the month until your supply is gone.

We have also enclosed "House" pins for nurses or other staff to wear on their lanyards as part of the campaign. If you would like more posters, available at no cost, please send in the enclosed order form.

To launch the campaign, we have organized a press conference to be held on October 12th at the Idaho Statehouse. Speakers include U.S. Senator Mike Crapo, Dr. Blea, Idaho Perinatal Project, Dr. Sexton, FACES, and Sherry Iverson, RN, American Academy of Pediatrics – Idaho Chapter. On October 13th, Sherry Iverson, RN, will be providing more information to those attending the Idaho Perinatal Conference in Cascade.

We encourage you to attend the press conference, as well as the Idaho Summit on Domestic Violence and Health to be held on October 20th in Boise. A copy of the invitation is enclosed. Medical credits have been approved and nursing credits are pending.

We thank you for being part of this important campaign to increase awareness on the heightened risk of domestic violence during pregnancy.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at kmiller@idvsa.org or call 208 384-0419.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kelly Miller', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kelly Miller
Executive Director

300 E. Mallard Drive, Suite 130
Boise, Idaho 83706
(208) 384-0419
www.idvsa.org