CONNECT WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS' TOP PRIORITIES

No matter what issues are at the forefront of your legislators' agenda, the issues you care about intersect and connect to them. The chart below can help you engage your legislator as you begin telling the story of your community's needs and services.

Identify which topic you think will best resonate with your legislator, and then begin by framing issues of domestic and sexual violence through that topic. Gradually move into discussing your local program or community, and how it fits within these topics.

How to learn more about your legislators:

- Visit www.moga.mo.gov.
- In the menu of tabs across the top, choose "Missouri Senate" or "Missouri House"
- On the "Missouri Senate" page, click the "Senators" tab, then "List of Senators." You can then click on whomever you wish to learn more about. You can find biographical information, as well as a list of committees on which the senator serves.
- On the "Missouri House" page, on the left side is the "House Members" tab, and from there, a "Directory of Representatives." You can then click on whomever you wish to learn more about. You can find biographical information, as well as a list of committees on which the representative serves.





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Family Values:

Stopping violence is imperative to creating strong, healthy families and providing stable environments for children.

Correlating Social Issues:

Domestic and sexual violence have strong ties to many other issues, including homelessness, poverty, trauma and human trafficking. Half of all homeless women and children become homeless while trying to escape abusive situations.

Personal Experiences:

Survivors of interpersonal violence live and work in your district, and knowing their stories gives you greater understanding of the people you represent.

Business:

Domestic and sexual violence often lead to missed days at work, lower productivity and other economic costs, as well as a large economic impact on healthcare costs.

Education:

Education includes learning about the nature and dynamics of domestic and sexual violence. Only by fully understanding these issues can we address and prevent them.

Public Health:

Domestic violence is the No. 1 public health issue for women, and contributes to higher rates of a variety of health issues, including post-traumatic stress disorder, heart attack, smoking and heavy alcohol use, chronic pain and poor physical and mental health.

Law Enforcement:

Domestic violence and sexual abuse are crimes. Ending and preventing such acts will contribute to lower crime rates and safer communities.

Prevention:

MISSOURI

VALUES

By investing in prevention programs for youth, we can break cycles of violent behavior and promote healthy, respectful and nonviolent relationships.