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HAVIN asks residents to take part in 'call-in day'

Wednesday, March 12, 2008



A domestic abuse and counseling shelter in Kittanning is asking residents to participate in a statewide "call-in day" to ensure continuous streams of funding and victim assistance.

Funding for HAVIN (Helping All Victims In Need) through the Victims of Crime Act is in jeopardy under the president's proposed budget for 2009. According to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, funding available to victims' services through the act would be transferred to the general treasury, resulting in a loss of \$2 billion and no funding opportunities by 2010.

People who commit crimes pay fines that are deposited in an account of funds connected to the Victims of Crime Act and that funding is allocated to support victims. HAVIN executive director Jo Ellen Bowman has said in the past that losing funding through the act will negatively affect the shelter's basic services and community support is necessary to reverse the proposal.

HAVIN and other similar shelters and centers across the state are pushing for the community's support on Friday by calling congressmen and/or faxing a letter regarding the potential funding losses.

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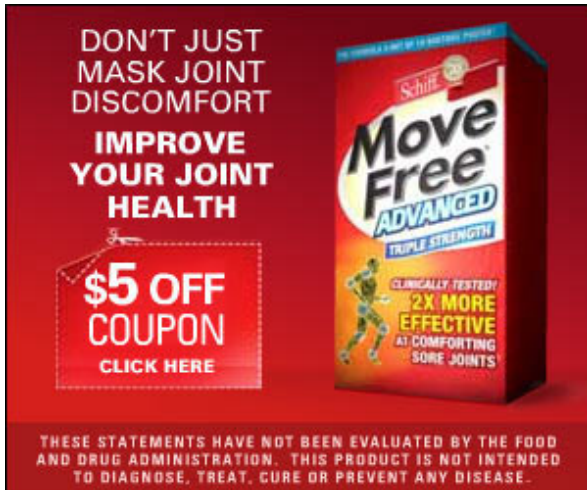
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Armstrong County is represented in Congress by U.S. Reps. Phil English, R-Erie, and John Murtha, D-Johnstown. Pennsylvania's senators are Republican Arlen Specter and Democrat Robert Casey.

The Capitol switchboard can be reached at 202-224-3121. Phone and fax numbers for the offices of each representative can be found at www.congress.org by typing in your ZIP code.

For information, contact HAVIN at 724-543-1180.

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