



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

June 6, 2008

S. 1515

National Domestic Violence Volunteer Attorney Network Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on May 15, 2008

SUMMARY

S. 1515 would authorize funding to recruit volunteer lawyers to represent victims of domestic violence and to publicize available legal services for such victims. Under the bill, the Attorney General would award grants to the American Bar Association (ABA) and to states for those purposes. CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$38 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting S. 1515 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 1515 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice). The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1515 is shown in the following table.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2009- 2013
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2012	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Domestic Violence Volunteer Attorney Grant Programs						
Authorization Level	3	11	11	11	11	47
Estimated Outlays	1	5	7	9	10	32
Other Provisions						
Estimated Authorization Level	2	2	2	2	2	9
Estimated Outlays	1	1	1	1	2	6
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	5	13	13	13	13	56
Estimated Outlays	2	6	8	10	12	38

Notes: Amounts do not sum to totals because of rounding.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted near the end of 2008 and that the authorized and necessary amounts will be appropriated each year beginning in 2009.

CBO estimates that implementing this bill would cost \$38 million over the 2009-2013 period. Estimated outlays are based primarily on historical spending patterns for programs of the Office of Violence Against Women within the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Domestic Violence Volunteer Attorney Grant Programs

CBO estimates that implementing two DOJ grant programs specified in the bill would cost \$32 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Such funds would be used to compile and publicize voluntary legal services for victims of domestic violence.

National Domestic Violence Volunteer Attorney Network. S. 1515 would authorize the appropriation of \$2 million in 2009 and \$3 million a year through 2013 for the Attorney General to award grants to the ABA to create and manage a National Domestic Violence Volunteer Attorney Network. Under the bill, the ABA would use those funds to recruit,

train, and mentor volunteer lawyers to represent victims of domestic violence. CBO estimates that providing the grants would cost \$13 million over the 2009-2013 period.

National Domestic Violence Volunteer Attorney Referral Project. S. 1515 would authorize the appropriation of \$750,000 in 2009 and \$8 million a year through 2013 to create the National Domestic Violence Volunteer Attorney Referral Project to gather and publicize legal resources for victims of domestic violence. The project, under DOJ's Office of Violence Against Women, would provide grants to states to hire legal coordinators and to create databases of legal services throughout the state. The project would first operate as a pilot program in five states and then would expand to all states beginning in 2010. CBO estimates that the grant program would cost \$19 million over the 2009-2013 period.

Other Provisions

Based on information from DOJ, CBO estimates that implementing additional activities under the bill would cost \$6 million over the 2009-2013 period. Those activities would include:

- Awarding grants to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, Internet-based domestic violence organizations, and other organizations;
- Creating a Domestic Violence Attorney Task Force to provide guidance for the programs established under the bill; and
- Preparing a National Institute of Justice report on the scope and quality of legal services for victims of domestic violence.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1515 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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