

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
OPENING REMARKS FOR RADIO SHOW WITH SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE
WASHINGTON, DC
OCTOBER 12, 1996

Thank you, Senator Wellstone, for inviting me to join you for this important discussion of domestic violence. There are few people in this country who have devoted more time and energy to the fight against domestic violence than you and your wife, Sheila. I know that millions of American women and children are grateful to you both for drawing national attention to the tragedy of this crime, for educating our country about its impact on our families and communities, and for strengthening laws to prevent it.

Domestic violence is not just a women's issue, it is a family issue. It threatens the values we hold dear as Americans. It threatens the security and progress so necessary to our future as a nation.

That's why we must never give up in our efforts to increase public awareness and understanding of domestic abuse -- and to continue to offer support to its victims.

I am extremely proud that my husband, with help from members of Congress like Senator Wellstone, has put domestic violence high on the national agenda.

During the last few years, the President signed into law the Violence Against Women Act, which gives law enforcement new tools to prosecute and punish criminals who prey on women and children in their own homes. The welfare reform legislation the President signed recognizes the special needs of domestic violence victims. For the first time in our nation's history, there is an Office on Domestic Violence at the Justice Department.

At every step, Senator Wellstone and his wife Sheila have been vocal, committed, and persistent in pushing for remedies and in bringing relief to women and children whose lives have been shattered by abuse.

There is still much to be done. But with Bill Clinton in the White House, and Paul Wellstone in the Senate, we know we that we will make progress. We will take this issue seriously. We will find solutions that protect women and their families and both deter and punish criminals.

On behalf of the President and on behalf of the many women I have met across American who have benefited from your efforts, thank you for caring so much about domestic violence and what it means to individual families -- and to our larger American family.

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There is still much to do.

Melanne Veeer
Page One

Monday - event @
museum

Melanne Veeer
Talking Points
Luncheon to Honor National Award for Museum Service Recipients
October 14, 1994

Your philosophy and background

I recently reviewed how People For's founders characterized its mission in 1980. They said, "The decades of the Eighties and Nineties will be troubled times - - some predict the most turbulent since the 1930's - - and we are alarmed that some of the current voices of stridency and division may replace those of reason and unity. If these voices continue unchallenged, the results will be predictable: a rise in 'demonology' and hostility, a breakdown in community and social spirit, a deterioration of free and open dialogue, and the temptation to grasp at simplistic solutions for complex problems." Museums, particularly the museums we are honoring with the National Award for Museum Service, are challenging these voices.

Museums and Public Service

(A) Museums can challenge these voices in ways that no other institution can. Museums are places where communities happen; when they use their powerful resources to address relevant concerns of the community, the results are extraordinary. Museum collections and exhibits give context for discussions and encourage thinking that goes beyond the simplistic response. The National Award for Museum Service recipients have demonstrated how effectively museums can build solid communities, where differences can be explored, where children can find a safe haven.

New Trend? or old history

Propelled by changing economic and demographic conditions and sometimes the startling realization that some museums while known for their collections, just don't matter to a lot of people, museums have renewed the focus on their public trust including their social responsibility to answer the tough questions.. I say renewed because John Cotton Dana, founder of the Newark Museum in the early 1900's and father of the American museum, said, "All public institutions, and museums are no exception, should give returns for their cost and those returns should be in good degree positive, definite, visible, and measurable. A museum is good only in so far as it is of use."

Are museums worth the cost?

Why should we support museums? What is uniquely valuable about our museums? The museums we are honoring with the IMS National Award for Museum Service have clear and convincing answers to these questions. These museum directors and trustees have effected the serious and lasting change needed to assure that museums are not marginal

Melanne Veveer
Page Two

but are integral to today's social fabric. They use the wealth of their collections and their scholarly expertise to enrich and empower citizens from all backgrounds.

These museums are finding ways to keep kids in school, keep business competitive with a creative workforce, appreciate the environment and understand technological advances, advance international understanding and exchange, and help America to forge a national identity out of our rich diversity.

The Administration's Position

The Clinton Administration cares a great deal about supporting the cultural life of our Nation. And honoring you here today is a part of that. We believe in the power of cultural institutions to affect positive change in communities, to support and nurture children and families and to support complex thinking that is so necessary to citizens of our global society.

Call to action

I thank you for all you have done and I hope this recognition will be a catalyst for more institutions to follow your lead and a validation for the many others who are already on the path.

*file domestic
violence*

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 3, 1996

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH, 1996

- - - - -

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Domestic violence threatens the very core of what we hold dear. Millions of women and children throughout our nation are plagued by the terror of family violence each year, and approximately 20 percent of all hospital emergency room visits by women result from such violence. Family violence is a crime that transcends race, religion, ethnicity, and economic stature, and one of its greatest tragedies is its effect on our young people: as many as 3 million children witness violence in their homes each year.

We must never give up in our efforts to transform despair into hope for the women and families across this country who suffer violence at home. We must encourage all Americans to increase public awareness and understanding of domestic abuse as well as the needs of its victims. My Administration is fully engaged in this struggle, coordinating our efforts through the Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice and through the Department of Health and Human Services.

Legislation enacted during the past several years is also helping to overcome the scourge of domestic violence. The Violence Against Women Act that I signed into law has given law enforcement critical new tools with which to prosecute and punish criminals who intentionally prey upon women and children. The Interstate Stalking Punishment and Prevention Act of 1996, enacted just last month, makes it a Federal crime for any stalker to cross State lines to pursue a victim, whether or not there is a protection order in effect, whether or not an actual act of violence has been committed, and whether or not the stalker is the victim's spouse. And I am pleased that the Congress has just taken action to keep guns out of the hands of people with a history of domestic violence.

My Administration has also worked to increase the support available for battered women and other victims of domestic violence, including the elderly. In February, I announced the creation of a 24-hour, toll-free National Domestic Violence Hotline, 1-800-799-SAFE. The response to this service has been overwhelming, and the hotline has already received over 50,000 calls -- the majority from women and men who have never before reached out for assistance. This year, we will also provide increased and unprecedented resources for battered women's shelters, domestic violence prevention efforts, and children's counseling services.

There is still much more to do, however. The welfare reform legislation that I recently signed recognizes the special needs of domestic violence victims, and I urge all States to accept the option of implementing the new law's Family Violence

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(OVER)

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 3, 1996

October 3, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

SUBJECT: Guidelines to States for Implementing
the Family Violence Provisions

Domestic violence has a devastating impact on families and communities. Each year, hundreds of thousands of Americans are subjected to assault, rape, or murder at the hands of an intimate family member. Our children's futures are severely threatened by the fact that they live in homes with domestic violence. We know that children who grow up with such violence are more likely to become victims or batterers themselves. The violence in our homes is self-perpetuating and eventually it spills into our schools, our communities, and our workplaces.

Domestic violence can be particularly damaging to women and children in low-income families. The profound mental and physical effects of domestic violence can often interfere with victims' efforts to pursue education or employment -- to become self-sufficient and independent. Moreover, it is often the case that the abusers themselves fight to keep their victims from becoming independent.

As we reform our Nation's welfare system, we must make sure that welfare-to-work programs across the country have the tools, the training, and the flexibility necessary to help battered women move successfully into the work force and become self-sufficient.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage States to implement the Wellstone/Murray Family Violence provisions of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 (Public Law 104-193, section 402(a)(7)). These provisions invite States to increase services for battered women through welfare programs and help these women move successfully and permanently into the workplace. The Family Violence provisions are critical in responding to the unique needs faced by women and families subjected to domestic violence.

As we move forward on our historical mission to reform the welfare system, this Administration is committed to offering States assistance in their efforts to implement the Family Violence provisions.

Accordingly, I direct the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General to develop guidance for States to assist and facilitate the implementation of the Family Violence provisions. In crafting this guidance, the Departments of Health and Human Services and Justice should

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(OVER)

work with States, domestic violence experts, victims' services programs, law enforcement, medical professionals, and others involved in fighting domestic violence. These agencies should recommend standards and procedures that will help make transitional assistance programs fully responsive to the needs of battered women.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services is further directed to provide States with technical assistance as they work to implement the Family Violence provisions.

Finally, to more accurately study the scope of the problem, we should examine statutory rape, domestic violence, and sexual assault as threats to safety and barriers to self-sufficiency. I therefore direct the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make it a priority to understand the incidence of statutory rape, domestic violence, and sexual assault in the lives of poor families, and to recommend the best assessment, referral, and delivery models to improve safety and self-sufficiency for poor families who are victims of domestic violence.

I ask the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General to report to me in writing 90 days from the date of this memorandum on the specific progress that has been made toward these goals.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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provisions. I have also directed the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice to develop guidance for States and assist them in implementing the provisions. As we help families move from welfare to work, we must ensure that they remain safe from violence in their homes and are given the support they need to achieve independence.

As a result of these and other efforts at the national, State, and local levels, we are one step closer to eliminating domestic violence and building in its place a brighter, more secure future for our families and loved ones. I salute all those whose efforts are helping us in this endeavor and pay special tribute to the survivors of domestic violence whose courage is an inspiration to us all. I urge all Americans to join me in working toward the day when no person raises a hand in violence against a family member.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 1996 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month by demonstrating their respect and gratitude for all those individuals who unselfishly share their experiences, skills, and talents with those affected by domestic violence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone

Wellstone Initiative for Safe Homes



August 15, 1996

Melanne Verveer
Office of the First Lady
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Verveer:

In the past few years, the Clinton administration has made great strides in its recognition of, as well as efforts to eradicate, domestic violence. I commend the attention your office has given to addressing this critical and distressing issue. Your contribution is a valuable part of the effort to keep women and children safe.

As you may know, my wife Sheila and I co-sponsor an art exhibit and reception every October to commemorate "Domestic Violence Awareness Month." We believe that the arts are a valuable medium in which to continue our efforts to raise awareness about domestic violence in America.

This year, during the first week of October, we will include the work of award-winning photographer Annie Liebovitz in a living memorial for women and children who have been killed or traumatized by domestic violence. I have enclosed a packet that describes the exhibit in detail.

Because this administration has been so important in speaking out on this issue, we would be honored if you could attend the exhibit's opening reception on October 1. I hope you will choose this occasion to further highlight your commitment to ending violence against women.

If you are unable to attend the exhibit we would be honored if you would wear a badge, designed by artist Jane Evershed, bearing the name of a 1995 domestic homicide victim, on October 1st.

Please have your office contact my legislative assistant, Kirsten Jennings, with your response and any questions you might have.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Paul David Wellstone
United States Senator

U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone

Wellstone Initiative for Safe Homes



Media Advisory - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ART EXHIBIT DURING THE FIRST WEEK IN OCTOBER

AT THE RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING ROTUNDA, WASHINGTON, D.C.



VIP RECEPTION TO BE HELD TUESDAY, OCT. 1, 1996 FROM 5 - 8 PM

WELLSTONE'S ANNOUNCE ARTIST SELECTED FOR THIS YEAR'S LIVING MEMORIAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN KILLED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone (D-Minn.) and Sheila Wellstone have selected the work of photographer Annie Leibovitz to display at their annual "Living Memorial For Women and Children Killed by Domestic Violence" during the first week of October. The exhibit will be co-sponsored by the law firm of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo and the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV).

For the past three years, the Wellstones have co-sponsored this annual art exhibit centering on domestic abuse. The art is displayed for one week in the rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building, a prominent place where legislators, their staffs, dignitaries and visitors can be exposed to the somber--and often uncomfortable--reminder of women's lives shattered or lost at the hands of the one they love.

To officially open each exhibit, the Wellstones co-host a reception and ceremony which in the past has been attended by U.S. Senators and Representatives committed to ending family violence, cabinet secretaries, Tipper Gore and other dignitaries. This year's reception will be held on Tuesday, October 1, 1996, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The Wellstones hope that this exhibit will give you the opportunity to write about domestic violence from a non-celebrity point of view. *Sheila Wellstone is particularly interested in getting information out about what individual women can do to make a difference in their communities and what a woman can do to help when she knows that a sister, friend, neighbor....is involved in a violent situation.*

For more information call Pam McKinney at (703) 658-8847

Feb. 26 & Mar. 4, 1996

Price \$3.50

THE NEW YORKER





assaulted by their husbands or boyfriends. These women recently took refuge at a Connecticut shelter. Photographs by Annie Leibovitz.



FACES OF ABUSE *According to Justice Department figures, there are more than a million and a half reported cases a year of women being*

Wellstone Initiative for Safe Homes

In the movie, "The Burning Bed," Farrah Fawcett's character was brutalized by her husband to the point where her only hope was to kill him.



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BY PAUL WINNETT
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Committee passes Wellstones' measure on domestic violence

NEWSPAPER OF THE TWIN CITIES

Star Tribune

WILLIAMSON SENTINEL
Lac qui Parle Co.
AUG 18 1993
Wellstone violence training act passes
domestic abuse focus
of Sheila
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Wellstone
2/11/93
LYNDA MCDONALD

Wellstone legislation passes committee

TV Preview: Dick Van Dyke
in CBS's 'Diagnosis Murder'

2

Book World: 'Losing Eddie,'
a hardscrabble existence

2

Style

5

Style Plus: Why Things Are;
the surge in male nurses

8

Chess: Karpov now only
one draw from championship

The Combat Zone Called Home

Bills Aim to Reduce the Alarming Incidences of Domestic Violence

By Megan Rosenfeld
Washington Post Staff Writer

Joni Colsrud was a cook in an Iowa truck stop in the early '70s when she met the man who became her husband, a dairy farmer in rural Minnesota. She left him in 1984, taking their two young children with her. Three acrimonious years later he pulled out a shotgun and blasted her son in the shoulder, and then aimed at her. He intended to shoot her in the genitals, he said later, just to maim her.

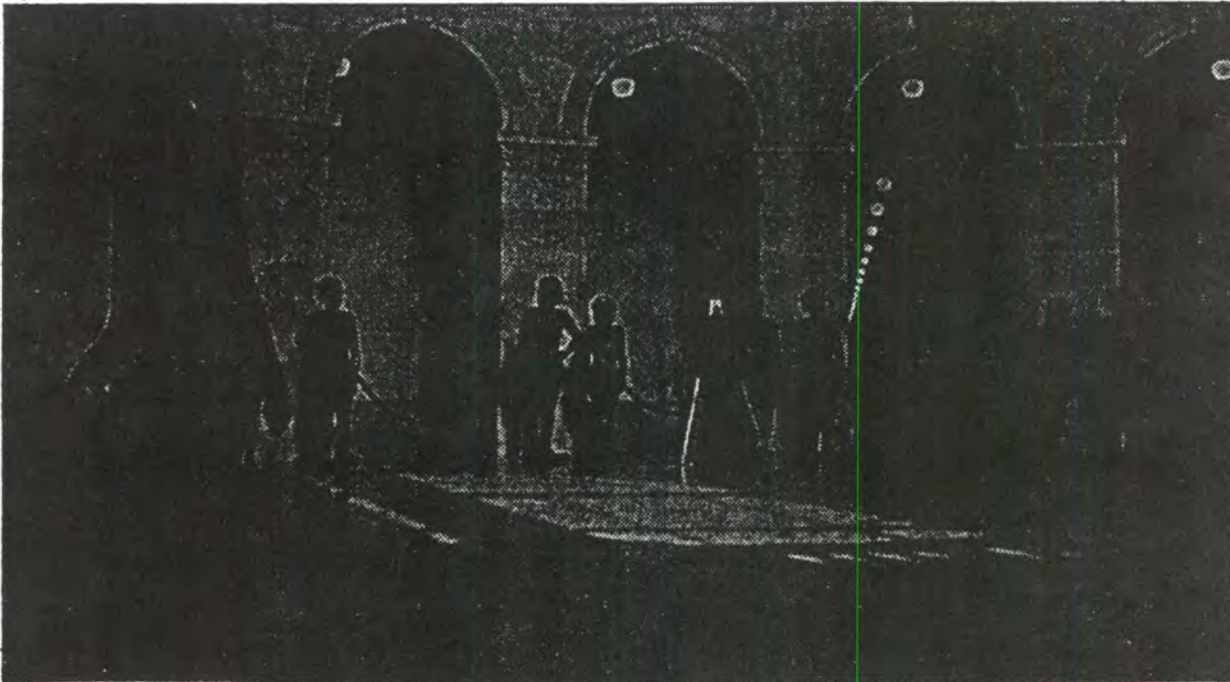
He got her leg instead. Most of it had to be amputated.

Colsrud lives now in Silver Spring, and yesterday she went to Capitol Hill, along with her son Chad, 13, and her fiancé, Richard Van Dyke, to testify in support of a bill. The measure would allocate \$30 million to establish 100 centers around the country where children could be safely handed from one parent to the other for court-ordered visitation. Advocates for children and victims of domestic violence say that three-fourths of the 3 million to 4 million women who report being beaten ev-

ery year are hurt after they have left their abusive spouses. Much of this occurs during the period when the former partners are most likely to meet—while the children are being transferred from one parent to another.

There was the case recently in Illinois where a woman was killed on the street in front of her two children by their father; and the case of a Connecticut woman who dressed in a Ninja costume as part of a plot to kill her former husband by numbing him with a stun gun and then

See CENTERS, B8, Col. 2



BY RAY LUSTIG—THE WASHINGTON POST

Sheila Wellstone's Senate office building exhibit remembering women who have been killed by domestic violence.

Custody

CENTERS, From B1

drowning him in a New Hampshire lake. There have been children shot and killed in social workers' offices; social workers killed; court workers threatened.

This legislation, sponsored by Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-Minn.) and promoted largely by his wife, Sheila, is just one of almost two dozen domestic violence bills making the legislative rounds. They include proposals to establish a national domestic abuse hot line, to allow undocumented immigrants to stay in the country while their domestic violence cases are being adjudicated, to keep convicted wife abusers from buying guns, and, of course, lots of studies.

"We live in a time when violence is growing more and more prevalent in our streets and public areas," said Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) in convening yesterday's hearing. "The statistics tell us that today, like every other day of the year, four women in this country will be killed by their male partners."

"Truly, violence does beget violence," said Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.), who spoke on behalf of a bill he has submitted that would set up a demonstration project for a "coordinated community-based response to domestic violence." "What occurs in the home is repeated by kids on the street, and repeated again in the home after they have become adults."

According to studies cited yesterday, children who grow up in abusive homes are more likely to become addicted to drugs or alcohol, to commit crimes, to run away, to become prostitutes and to become batterers themselves.

Sheila Wellstone, who became interested in the topic while working as library aide in a Minnesota high school, also organized the installation of an unusual exhibit in the Russell Senate Office Building. Earlier this week, 27 plywood silhouettes, painted blood-red, were set up in the classically proportioned rotunda, each with

a tag affixed to commemorate a woman killed by a family member in Minnesota in 1990. The exhibit was timed to coincide with Domestic Violence Month, which ends Sunday.

One reads: "Donna Lavander/ Age 27/ April 22, 1990/ She was the mother of two children. She lived in Parkers Prairie. She was shot in the head by her husband, who then committed suicide. She survived for two days. Her children, ages 5 and 9, were at home at the time of the shooting and survive her."

Tipper Gore, wife of Vice President Gore, visited the exhibit for about 15 minutes yesterday and said she found it very "powerful."

"The women's movement got the shelter movement going, and that was a great step," said Sheila Wellstone in an interview. "But now it has to go beyond being a woman's issue. . . . Maybe this is a step to say the community has to get involved."

The Wellstone bill offers an organization in St. Paul as a prototype of a safety center. However, there are at least 60 other similar projects across the country, according to Robert B. Straus, president of the Supervised Visitation Network headquartered in Cambridge, Mass. Each center costs between \$125,000 to \$215,000 a year and most offer services to more than just the victims of domestic violence. In some cases, the child has been in foster care and is being visited by his biological parent, or the children are being passed between parents who are rancorous but not necessarily violent.



BY LARRY MOORE—THE WASHINGTON POST

Sheila Wellstone favors child custody centers.

"They are a kind of demilitarized zone in the nuclear war between the parents," Straus said of the centers.

In some areas where no such facilities exist—like the Washington area—couples often exchange the children in front of a police station. But even that does not offer the same security the Children's Safety Center in St. Paul does. There, the non-custodial parent must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled drop-off, go through a metal detector and be searched by a security guard, and then wait in a back room. The custodial parent arrives with the children and leaves without seeing the other parent, who must wait another 15 minutes before leaving with the children. This gives the abused parent a chance to get away without being followed. The center also offers parenting classes and space for supervised visits.

Joni Colsrud believes if she had had access to a place like that she would still have her leg. Her ex-husband, Ole Hans Colsrud, had told people he planned to shoot her but authorities in rural Pine County said they could do nothing. After the shooting, he was convicted of first- and second-degree assault and sentenced to six years in prison, from which he was paroled in April 1992. He is supposed to be paying her \$62 a month child support, but rarely does, her fiance said.

A judge could give her ex-husband the right to see his children if he asks to, Colsrud said, a situation she tried to remedy by successfully lobbying for a bill passed by the Minnesota legislature. Unfortunately, she could not take advantage of that legislation, because she could not afford a lawyer to file the motion that would have cut off his visitation privileges. So far, she said, he has not tried to see his children and she does not think he knows where she is.

Chad got to take a day off from school to hear his mother speak to the two senators. He likes his new school, he said, and has no interest in seeing his father.

Colsrud also offered up two additional pleas. "I would like you all to remember the disabled when you vote on the health care bill," she said. "Second, I'm in dire need of a job."

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BC-MN--Child Safety,280<

Visitation Centers Included In Crime Bill<

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WASHINGTON (AP) Sheila Wellstone's plan to provide money for supervised visitation centers that would protect children from violent parents has been added to the Senate's crime bill.

Mrs. Wellstone's legislation, which was sponsored by her husband, Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., would authorize the government to spend \$60 million over three years to set up and operate about 50 centers nationwide.

The facilities provide a supervised place for abusive parents to visit their children or for parents to transfer children to each other without a violent or abusive encounter.

"I'm ecstatic," she said Tuesday. "Who would have thought that we had the committee hearings (just) two weeks ago and now it's on the way."

She had originally wanted to fund 100 centers but compromised on half that many.

In a dramatic committee hearing last month, a former Pine County, Minn., woman described how her ex-husband shot her and a child during one of his court-ordered visits. Joni Colstrud said the shootings could have been avoided if her community had a visitation center.

Ten of the proposed new centers would be subjects of clinical studies to see how well they work, said Mrs. Wellstone.

The Senate added the legislation to its crime bill by voice vote on Monday. Rep. Martin Sabo, D-Minn., is sponsoring legislation similar to the Wellstones' in the House.

Mrs. Wellstone has taken on domestic violence issues as a personal crusade.

She "has done more than most people who serve in the U.S. Congress ... in trying to resolve these conflicts that result in horrible physical abuse," said Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Sheila Wellstone makes appeal for battered women who are reluctant to come forward

By PHILIP BRASHER

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was an unusual scene, the wife of a U.S. senator testifying before her husband's committee.

But Sheila Wellstone says someone had to speak for the battered women who were afraid to go before Congress and talk about their problems getting health insurance.

"Somebody has to tell their stories until they feel they can," Mrs. Wellstone told the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

Sen. Paul Wellstone, a member of the panel, is sponsoring legislation that would make it illegal for insurance companies to deny policies to women who have been abused by husbands

or boyfriends.

Mrs. Wellstone, who has been an activist on domestic violence issues since her husband's election to the Senate in 1990, is the "driving force" behind the legislation, said the committee's chairwoman, Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kansas.

Aides to Wellstone, D-Minn., had planned to have a victim of domestic violence or the representative of a battered-women's shelter testify before the committee.

Some women fear for their safety and others are reluctant to talk publicly about their abuse, said Nancy Durboisow, health projects coordinator for the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

One of the potential witnesses was a woman who told Mrs. Wellstone she was denied health insurance because her medical record attributed her neck injury and depression to domestic violence. Many insurance companies consider domestic violence a "preexisting condition," such as cancer or another illness.

Advocates for battered women say women are being discouraged from reporting attacks by husbands or boyfriends for fear of being unable to get health coverage.

"It keeps the woman from going to the doctor when she really needs to," Mrs. Wellstone said.

A women's shelter in Rochester, Minn., has even been

denied insurance for its employees, she said.

Rep. Jim Ramstad, R-Minn., is cosponsoring legislation similar to Wellstone's in the House.

Kassebaum is opposed to the legislation, saying it goes too far. Insurance companies should be allowed to deny insurance for preexisting conditions for up to a year, she said.

Insurance companies are allowed to deny coverage to people who are sick as a way of encouraging people to buy it when they are still healthy instead of waiting until they need it.

But the American Medical Association endorsed the legislation.

Art exhibit shows faces behind statistics on domestic violence

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By Nirmala Bhat/Staff Writer

Washington, D.C.

It is dusk at the Capitol, and members of the Senate and their staff rush through crowded corridors on their way toward the exits. As they pass through the rotunda of the Russell Office Building, their gaze is arrested by portraits of women hanging from the curved stone wall.

This is not a typical art exhibit, and during its brief

appearance in Washington, D.C., last week it drew strong reaction.

"A Window Between Worlds" is a display about battered women. The works, by artist Cathy Salser, show the hands and faces of actual survivors of domestic violence.

The display's appearance in Washington was the result of work by Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., and his wife, Sheila. The exhibit is designed, in part, to call attention to Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Month this month. And the show reflects Sheila Wellstone's continuing crusade against domestic abuse.

"I call it domestic terrorism. . . . It is a bipartisan issue involving all of us," said Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala last week at an inaugural reception for the exhibition, which travels now to three U.S. cities.

"Sometimes pictures, not words, can communicate the message that domestic violence will no longer be ignored or trivialized in society," she said.

Shalala called on women's services providers to use the \$5 million that will be available through the crime bill passed this year to increase the number of women's shelters and provide training to those who deal with victims in emergency rooms.

The training and shelter legislation was introduced by Sen. Wellstone but initiated by Sheila Wellstone, who has made family violence her cause since her husband's election to the Senate in 1990.

The Washington reception for the show was attended by such notables as Arvonne Fraser, ambassador and U.S. representative to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, and her husband, Don, former congressman and Minneapolis mayor.

Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., chairman of the Senate

EXHIBIT Continued on page 2E



The brief display of "A Window Between Worlds" in Washington, D.C., drew strong reaction.



Cathy Salser's "If I Can Make a Circle" is part of "A Window Between Worlds." The exhibition's paintings depict domestic-violence survivors.

Exhibit/ Sheila Wellstone plans more art displays

Continued from page 1E

Judiciary Committee, made a brief speech, walking around the rotunda. As he walked, Biden exhorted the 40 or so people present to mobilize others and use the money now available to address the needs of battered women.

"There is no distinction between domestic violence and violence; it is ugly through and through . . . and violates the civil rights of the people," he said. "Some men still view women as chattel and have rights that should not exist in any society."

This is the second such exhibit Sheila Wellstone has brought to the Capitol. Last year a dramatic exhibit titled "The Silent Witnesses" — consisting of wooden silhouettes of 27 Minnesota victims of domestic abuse — was displayed in the rotunda.

"Such exhibits have a positive impact on decisions made to protect women," said Sheila Wellstone, who plans to sponsor similar art shows every October the Wellstones are in Washington.

She helped write the Violence Reduction Training Act, introduced by her husband and passed this year. The act provides \$20 million to teach doctors and nurses how to identify victims of domestic violence and refer them to help. Millions of women are battered each year in this country, and former U.S. Attorney General William French Smith reported in 1983 that "battering is the single major cause of injury to U.S. women, exceeding rapes, muggings and auto accidents."

Sen. Wellstone said, "Art is a very effective, one-on-one medium to raise awareness. At least a third of the senators have expressed how powerful last year's exhibit was to them."

Each of the 24 paintings in this year's exhibit tells the story of "the limiting force" that men exerted on the women pictured.

The paintings depict the faces of women who chose to leave bad family situations and abusive relationships. The faces are haunting, and the emotions vary — pain, determination, hope, tears and smiles. They are painted in acrylic on paper, over raised type that tells part of the women's personal stories. Excerpts from the women's stories hang beside the paintings.

Salser is the founder of A Window Between Worlds, a nonprofit program begun in 1991 to bring art to the lives of abused women in 42 shelters and residential centers in 17 states. It provides battered women an opportunity to explore their true desires through creative expression.

The exhibit, which was on display at the Minnesota Museum of American Art in St. Paul this summer, is showing now in Louisville, Ky., at a women's shelter. Early next year, the exhibit will travel to Providence R.I., and Chicago.

TASTE

**A harvest
for the table**

An autumn menu
for seasonal dining

**Charlotte wins expansion
team in NFL for '95/1C****Consumers worried/1D**

VARIETY

**The look of
a cowboy**

Western wear
spans a century



Star Tribune

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NEWSPAPER OF THE TWIN CITIES

'This is not right'

Sheila Wellstone presses the
cause against domestic violence

By Steve Berg
Washington Bureau Correspondent

Washington, D.C.

While the nation focuses attention on violent crime in the streets, Sheila Wellstone occupies herself with a quieter but equally disturbing concern: violence behind closed doors, violence visited upon women and children in their own homes.

What's not so well understood, she says, is that it's all part of the same frightening picture. Yes, murder has become so common in Washington, D.C., that the mayor wants to call out the National Guard. Yes, European tourists are systematically robbed and killed in Florida.

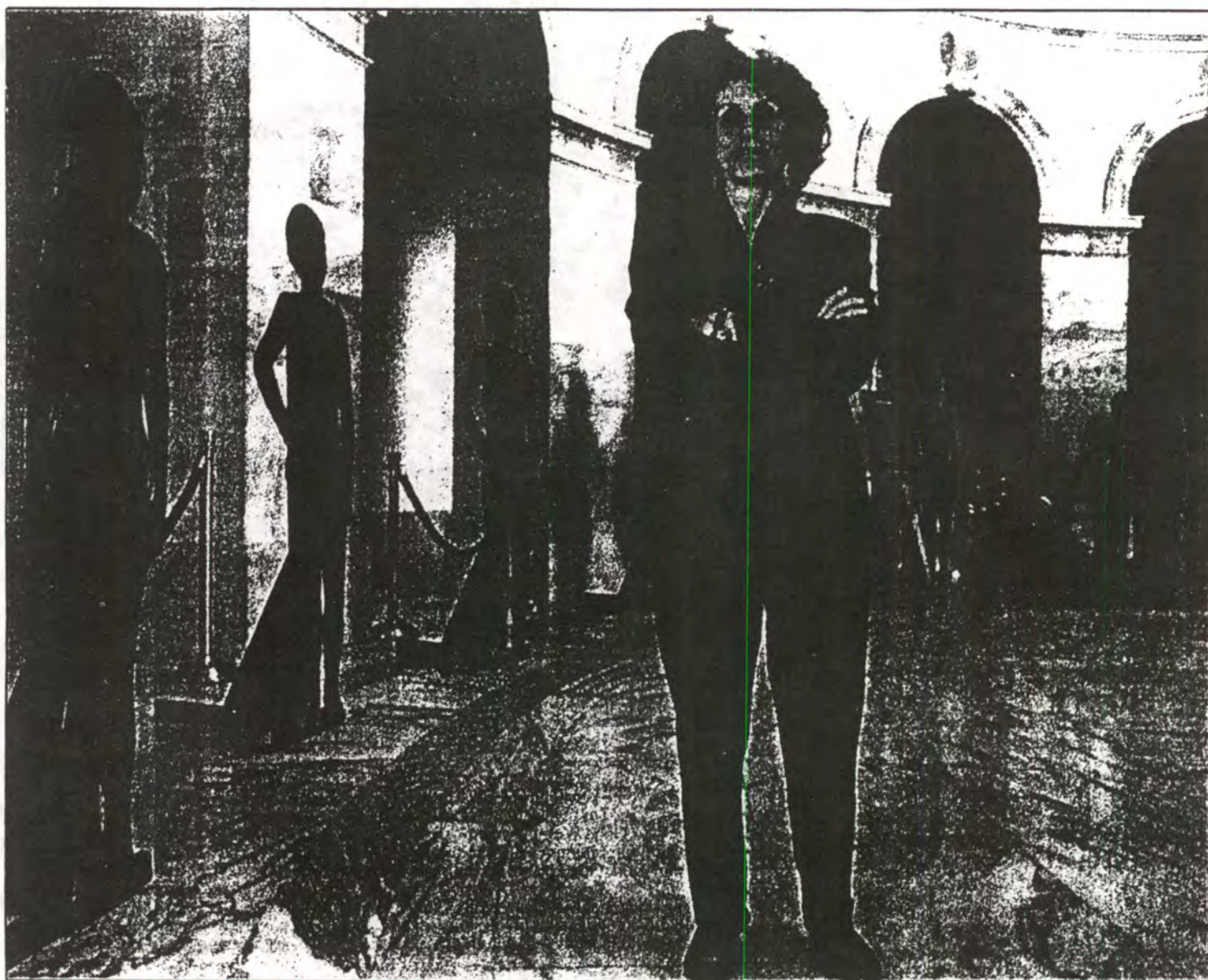
But Wellstone's point is this: It's ex-

remely likely that the perpetrators of these and other increasingly random and wanton street crimes also dish out punishment in their own homes and that they, themselves, have been victims of domestic violence. And just because this quieter, insidious, cyclical violence is, in a sense, private, it is no less tragic.

"A woman's home can be the most violent, dangerous and deadliest place she can be," Wellstone said. "This is not right! You're at a risk of danger every place else. But you have to be in danger also in your own home? That's absolutely intolerable!"

Sheila Wellstone says these things in a soft Kentucky drawl that belies

Violence continued on page 13A



Special to the Star Tribune by Shayna Brennan via the Associated Press

Sheila Wellstone stood before a display of 27 silhouettes of Minnesota women "killed by domestic violence in 1990." The display went up Monday in the rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C. Each figure tells a brief story.

Violence/ 2 proposed laws, one piece of art

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fierce determination to, as her husband might say, "make a difference." Her husband, Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., is, in his heart, a liberal activist and emotional reformer. So is Sheila Wellstone. Her continuing efforts on behalf of battered women and children are focused this week on two pieces of legislation and one piece of art.

First the art. A haunting display of 27 silhouettes of Minnesota women "killed by domestic violence in 1990" went up Monday in the rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington. Each figure tells a brief story. One example: "Dawn La-Mere, age 27 . . . She was the mother of two children. She lived in Parkers Prairie. She was shot in the head by her husband, who then committed suicide. She survived for two days. Her children, ages 5 and 9, were home at the time of the shooting and survive her."

The display, called "The Silent Witnesses," was produced by a group of Minnesota artists and has toured the state for more than two years. Sheila Wellstone was instrumental in bringing it to Washington to punctuate action on two bills offered by her husband and others.

One bill, already passed by the House and awaiting final Senate action, provides \$20 million to teach doctors and nurses how to identify victims of domestic violence and refer them for help. The other provides \$30 million to help build visitation centers for violence-prone families. These centers would offer supervised, neutral sites where parents could transfer custody of children or visit children

who had been placed in foster care because of abuse or neglect. Studies show that domestic violence often occurs during visitation periods.

Senate subcommittee deliberations begin Thursday. Sheila Wellstone will be a witness. "Sheila, you better be ready because I'm coming after you," her husband, the senator, quipped at the prospect of cross-examining his wife.

Sheila Wellstone, 49, grew up in Frankfort, Ky., where her father was an official in the state transportation agency. When he was named director of the Washington, D.C.-area transit authority, Sheila was 16 and dead set against moving. For two weeks she sat in her new suburban Virginia house, angry and reluctant to plunge into a new school at mid-year.

By summer she had changed her mind completely. Friends invited her to a beach outing in Ocean City, Md. A high school wrestler named Paul Wellstone asked her to a party. To the old Gary U.S. Bonds tune "A Quarter to Three," a romance began that has lasted more than 30 years.

Most of her next 25 years were spent in two idyllic college towns — Chapel Hill, N.C., where Paul Wellstone got his undergraduate and graduate degrees at the University of North Carolina, and Northfield, Minn., where he taught political science at Carleton College. Sheila Wellstone raised three boys, supported her husband in his various political crusades and worked as a librarian. It was at the high school library in Northfield that she discovered her own crusade.

She came across newspaper and magazine accounts of terrible things hap-

pening to women in their homes — beatings and threats from husbands and boyfriends, stalkings, killings — but seldom any discussion of why, or what might be done about it. Yes, the issue already had been raised. Yes, there were shelters and hot lines.

But somehow it all remained too painful to discuss openly and squarely. Sheila Wellstone, who has never been a victim of abuse but nevertheless thinks she understands the reluctance of many women (and men) to discuss it, wants to change all that.

"It has got to be an issue that people can look at right in the face," she said. "Its impact on our lives is just as important as drinking and driving, smoking, taking care of the environment."

Wellstone's town meetings across Minnesota have attracted large crowds. In particular she recalls a gathering in Alexandria. A young man told of two women who had been harmed and beaten by a local man over a period of weeks and then how the man had accosted his girlfriend, raped her and murdered her. If only the first two women had spoken out, he said, maybe his girlfriend would have been spared. An elderly woman told of enduring an abusive husband while raising four sons. Now, three of the four sons are beating their wives, she said, and she finds herself pleading with her daughters-in-law to leave them.

Wellstone blames domestic violence on a "king of the castle" mentality ingrained in so many men, as well as a judicial system that provides inadequate incentives for men to halt their abuse. The current wave of job insecurity and the media's depiction of

violence as an acceptable means to resolve conflict only add to the problem, she said.

Wellstone is candid about using her newfound clout as the spouse of a senator to push her crusade as far as she can. She can get phone calls returned. She can climb into the trenches to interview women and children in shelters. She can sit in on her husband's staff meetings. She has done all of these things.

Indeed, she has emerged as a top adviser and important political sounding board not only on domestic violence but on a wide range of topics, thus shedding the dated stereotype of a tea-sipping Senate wife and taking on the cloak of Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"It's fair to say that one reason Paul had a hard first year was that Sheila was still in Minnesota," said Doug Stone, Wellstone's former press secretary, "but that once she got to Washington things became more focused."

Sheila Wellstone agrees with others who say she's a steadying influence on her husband, that she provides perspective to his decisions, that she sometimes encourages him to "step back a little bit" and not react at "gut level."

Clearly, the senator has come to see her as his political partner as well as his wife and best friend. "Her commitment on this issue has become my commitment," said Paul Wellstone, "not only because I love her, which I do, but because of the way she has brought these issues home. . . . Now that the children are no longer living at home, we're working together like we've never done before. On the big issues we always talked. Now we talk about everything."

Not your typical senator's spouse

by Mollie Hoben

Sheila Wellstone stood at the podium, listening intently to a woman describing the abuse she had endured in her home.

Wellstone jotted an occasional note on the pad in front of her, but otherwise kept her attention focused on the speaker. She neither commented as the painful story unfolded nor interpreted it when the woman finished.

She thanked the woman warmly and simply, then waited for someone else in the audience to rise and speak.



Sheila Wellstone listened to a speaker at a town meeting on domestic violence in Eagan.

The setting was a packed "town meeting" held in Eagan in early September. The topic was domestic abuse, and Sheila Wellstone was there to lend her weight as wife of a U. S. senator to the cause of ending family violence.

Here, as at other town meetings that Wellstone has moderated around the state, an attentive audience of professionals, activists, average citizens and victims explored the issue as it affected their community.

For the past two and a half years, Wellstone has been a tireless advocate, supporter and catalyst for efforts by Minnesotans to solve the problem of domestic abuse.

At the same time, she has worked hard to influence legislation in Washington and to spread the word about Minnesota's success stories to other parts of the country.

This summer, she had the satisfaction of seeing her Washington efforts pay off in two bills, introduced by her husband Sen. Paul Wellstone, which she was instrumental in creating.

The Violence Reduction Training Act will provide funds to train health care workers in identifying domestic violence and making appropriate referrals for care. After passage by a Senate subcommittee, the bill was incorporated into the re-authorization bill for the Centers for Disease Control, which has passed.

The Child Safety Act would create supervised visitation centers to minimize the incidence of family violence during visitation.

Until Paul Wellstone's decision to run for U.S. Senate, Sheila Wellstone had not participated in his political activities. "I supported him totally, but with three children at home, I made a conscious decision to stay home."

By the time of the Senate campaign, however, two children were off on their own and their youngest son was

in high school. Sheila Wellstone became an active campaigner. And, to her surprise, she enjoyed it.

"I've learned there are many good things that can come from politics," Wellstone said in a recent interview, "there are many good people who are in politics and are committed."

When Paul Wellstone won the election, Sheila Wellstone started thinking about her role in Washington. "I knew I wanted to do something that would give me an outlet of my own, something that was really mine," she said.

She settled on family violence as her focus. She was deeply troubled by what she had read about the topic, and she had a sense that she could use her new position to be helpful.

"Right after the election, Sheila began quietly visiting shelters around the state," recalled Julie Tilley, public awareness coordinator for the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. "This was long before she was getting publicity for her work. I don't think there's a battered women's shelter anywhere in the state she hasn't connected with."

Wellstone wanted to learn from the people doing the work, Tilley said. "She recognized the advocates as the experts, and she

wanted to listen to them and learn from them."

Indeed, both the Child Safety Act and the Violence Reduction Training Act grew directly out of what Wellstone heard during her visits, Tilley said.

"She is building on the work that the advocates are doing. She doesn't just go off on her own tangent and say what she thinks is needed."

Lynda Kobb, director of Listening Ear Crisis Center in Alexandria, agreed.

Describing Wellstone as "process oriented," Kobb said, "She doesn't assume know-it-all-ism. She has a style of leadership and support that is not hierarchical, not an ownership style. She is very collaborative."

When in Washington, Wellstone works full time in her husband's Senate office. The two think of their efforts as "a real partnership," she said.

Her language conveys this. For example: "I try to sit in on all the briefings and strategy sessions," she said at one point in a recent interview, "so that I'm aware of what's going on in our office."

Hearing her own words, she paused, then added, "'Our office'—maybe that's a problem, me saying 'our office'. But it's become a very natural kind of thing for us, to work as partners."

And it seems to go over well with their constituents. "I've gotten none of the kind of backlash that someone like Hillary Clinton has gotten, of people saying, 'Who does she think she is?' or 'Why is she doing that?'" Wellstone said.

Reflecting on the activist role she's created for herself, Wellstone said she has learned not only about politics and domestic violence, but also about herself. "I've gained a lot of self-confidence that I never knew was there."

She has also learned the joy of "making things happen," she said. "These first two pieces of legislation have been exciting. I feel so good about them, because I feel like I'm really coming through. I'm not just out there talking to people, I'm coming through for them."

KATHY STRAUSS

Minneapolis Star Tribune 7-31-93

Committee passes Wellstones' measure on domestic violence

By Tom Hamburger
Washington Bureau Chief

Washington, D.C.

A Senate committee provided Sheila Wellstone with a successful legislative debut Friday by passing a measure that she helped write to combat domestic violence.

The Violence Reduction Training Act, introduced by her husband, Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., passed the Labor and Human Resources Committee without dissent. It will go to the full Senate after the August recess and is expected to pass there, as well.

Sheila Wellstone dedicated herself to combatting domestic violence after her husband's election to the Senate two years ago and has become a nationally known lobbyist on the subject.

The act would provide \$20 million to teach doctors and nurses how to identify victims of domestic violence and refer them for help. It is the first of a two-part legislative package introduced by Sen. Wellstone.

The other part, the Child Safety Act, would authorize the development of

visitation centers around the country where women could drop off and pick up children without having to interact with the children's fathers. Incidents of violence have been associated with court-ordered visitation.

Several such centers operate in Minnesota. In materials prepared for the Senate, the Wellstones frequently cite the Twin Cities Children's Safety Center, founded by Kim Cardelli. Hearings on the safety centers will be held in the fall, and a vote on that proposal is slated for late October.

The American Medical Association reported last year that up to 35 percent of women seeking treatment in emergency rooms have symptoms related to ongoing abuse, but that doctors recognize only 5 percent of those cases as related to domestic violence.

"Educating medical professionals is a critical step toward addressing the needs of the hundreds of thousands of women who seek treatment for injuries sustained from domestic violence and sexual assault every year," wrote Paul Wellstone and Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., in a recent letter to Senate colleagues.

The idea for the legislation "grew through my travels in Minnesota," Sheila Wellstone said yesterday.

She has made reduction of domestic violence her cause at community forums across the state the past two years. She has listened to police, abused women, children and even once-angry husbands suggest ways to make a dent in the problem.

"I heard over and over again in Minnesota that there had to be a bigger role for health care providers in helping victims and helping end the cycle of violence," she said.

The unanimous vote of the Labor committee, which added the legislation as an amendment to an authorization bill for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, virtually ensures that the training proposal will become law.

When the other part of the proposal is considered in October, the Wellstones will sponsor a "Silent Witness" exhibit produced by Minnesota artists. The exhibit, to be displayed in a Senate office building, shows the silhouettes of 27 Minnesota women killed by domestic violence.

U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone

Wellstone Initiative for Safe Homes



Sheila Wellstone Bio

At a time when it is often easier to look away from the violence that begins in the living room, reaches into our schools and spills onto our streets, activist Sheila Wellstone is raising awareness, bringing communities together and developing effective responses to domestic violence.

Sheila Wellstone is the working partner of her husband, U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone (D-MN). Since his election to the U.S. Senate in 1990, Sheila has focused her work on preventing violence and protecting victims of domestic violence.

In Minnesota, Sheila meets with mothers and their children as well as domestic violence prevention advocates from across the state. She visits women's shelters and crisis centers. She hosts meetings to bring judges, law enforcement officials, clergy, local officials and advocates together to discuss the latest strategies to help the communities respond to domestic violence. She sponsors and cosponsors town meetings to gain a better understanding of how communities can prevent domestic violence.

In recognition of her national standing on domestic violence, awareness and response, Sheila was appointed by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the Violence Against Women Advisory Council in 1995. Sheila serves on a number of other national and Minnesota advisory committees, as well. In addition, she and Senator Wellstone host an art exhibit on Capitol Hill every year in October, National Domestic Violence Awareness month, to raise awareness about domestic violence.

Devoting herself to this issue on a full-time basis, Sheila has lent her expertise to the development of Senator Wellstone's domestic violence legislative agenda. The Violence Reduction Training Act, signed by President Clinton in December 1993, is designed to train health care providers to identify and refer victims of domestic violence. Provisions of the Child Safety Act and the Domestic Violence Firearm Prevention Act were incorporated into the 1994 Crime Bill signed by President Clinton in September 1994. The Child Safety Act helps establish supervised visitation centers throughout the United States. The Domestic Violence Firearm Prevention Act takes the guns out of the hands of people who abuse their spouse or child. Sheila helped craft and has testified on behalf of the Victims of Abuse Access to Health Insurance Act. This bill would stop health insurance companies from discriminating against victims of domestic violence. In addition, Senator Paul Wellstone has successfully amended the proposed Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Reform bill to include provisions which would prevent women covered in an employment based health plan from being discriminated against because of a medical condition caused by domestic violence.

Born in Washington, D.C., on August 18, 1944 to Ellen and Delmer Ison, Sheila lived in Lexington, Kentucky from 1947-1960. She and Senator Wellstone were married in 1963 and lived in North Carolina from 1963 to 1969. In 1969, the Wellstones moved to Northfield, Minnesota.

Sheila is the mother of three children and has three grandchildren. Before coming to Washington, she devoted most of her time to raising a family. In addition, she taught childbirth education classes; served on the Board of Directors of the Northfield Nursery School and the Northfield Wrestling Club in Minnesota; served as the volunteer coordinator at Longfellow Elementary School; and worked at the Northfield High School Media Center.

Wellstone Initiative for Safe Homes



Sheila Wellstone is an active participant in, and advisor and/or member of the board of directors of the following organizations:

Harriet Tubman Center, Minneapolis, MN

The center is a shelter and transitional housing for battered women and also offers services like education and job placement.

Children's Law Center, Minnesota

The law center's main interest is in working with incarcerated youths.

Domestic Violence Report, New York City, NY

The report is a bimonthly newsletter to which Sheila Wellstone contributes a Washington update.

Exodus Project, Minneapolis, MN

Exodus is an organization of women's advocates.

The Empower Program, Washington, D.C.

The program's main objective is to teach women how to avoid and overcome becoming victims of abuse and domestic violence.

Higher Education Against Violence and Abuse, Minnesota

This organization studies the problems of domestic violence and abuse in order to come up with positive solutions to the problems.

National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women, Washington D.C.

Sheila Wellstone was appointed to this council by Attorney General Janet Reno and Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna E. Shalala on July 13, 1995. Other members of the Advisory Council include outstanding leaders in various fields who have also been active in the fight against domestic violence.

WATCH, Minneapolis, MN

WATCH is a court monitoring program. Volunteers go to court when cases involving domestic violence and child abuse are being prosecuted.

Women's Advocates, Minneapolis, MN

This group consists of female attorneys who study domestic violence in Bulgaria, Romania and Albania.

Wellstone Initiative for Safe Homes



Chronology of Senator Paul Wellstone and Sheila Wellstone's Initiative for Safe Homes

1996

- April 29 - Sheila Wellstone helped draft amendments which were successfully added to the Immigration bill by Sen. Paul Wellstone that made illegal immigrant women who are victims of domestic violence eligible for benefits under the Violence Against Women Act; prevented them from being deported for receiving public assistance to escape the violence; and eliminated the practice of "deeming" income status for victims of abuse for the first 4 years.
- April 18 - Sen. Paul Wellstone, with help from Sheila Wellstone, successfully amended the Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Reform Act so that women covered in an employment based health plan will not be discriminated against because of a medical condition caused by domestic violence. This amendment included provisions of Sen. Wellstone's Access to Health Insurance Act, which he had introduced in March 1995.
- March - Sheila Wellstone was honored at a dinner in the Pillsbury neighborhood of South Minneapolis, for her work on and dedication to the problem of domestic violence.

1995

- Oct. 2 - President Clinton declared October National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- Oct. 2-6 - Sen. Paul Wellstone and Sheila Wellstone hosted their third art exhibit to draw attention to the problem of domestic violence, "Living with the Enemy", an exhibit with photos by award-winning photojournalist Donna Ferrato, in the Russell Senate Office Building rotunda.
- Sept. 28 - Sen. Joseph Biden (D-DE), with Sen. Paul Wellstone as a cosponsor, successfully amended an appropriations bill to restore the Violence Against Women Act funding that had previously been cut.
- Sept. 9 - Sen. Paul Wellstone amended the Work Opportunity Act of 1995 so that states will not be penalized when they make exemptions for victims of domestic violence who do not meet certain requirements.
- July 27 - Sheila Wellstone testified before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee on the Victims of Abuse Access to Insurance Act, legislation that she helped to craft and develop, which Sen. Paul Wellstone introduced.
- July 14 - Sheila Wellstone was appointed to the National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women because of her expertise and active role in developing legislation, in addition to other work, to protect victims of domestic violence.
- March 28 - Sen. Paul Wellstone cosponsored the Child Custody Reform Act of 1995, a bill to create neutral centers for custodial visits for children who are in danger because of domestic violence.
- March 9 - Senator Paul Wellstone introduced the Access to Health Insurance Act.

- Jan. 26 - Sen. Paul Wellstone cosponsored the Domestic Violence Community Response Team Act of 1995 which was introduced by Sen. Bill Bradley (D-NJ).
- Jan. 11 - Sheila Wellstone was named a Minnesota Women's Press 1994 Newsmaker for her advocacy against domestic violence.

1994

- Oct. 17 - Sheila Wellstone spoke at the "Break the Chain, Stop the Pain" forum in Minneapolis/St. Paul about the continuing cycle of domestic violence. The forum included municipal officials as well as private citizens.
- Oct. 3-7 - Sen. Paul Wellstone and Sheila Wellstone hosted their second art exhibit to call attention to the problem of domestic violence, Artist Cathy Salser's "A Window Between Worlds", an exhibit of portraits of victims of domestic violence, in the Russell Senate Office Building rotunda.
- Oct. - "Domestic Violence Awareness Month 1994" is observed.
- Sept. - Provisions of the Child Safety Act and portions of the Domestic Violence Firearm Prevention Act, two pieces of legislation which Sen. Wellstone introduced on May 4, were signed into law by President Clinton as part of the 1994 Crime Bill.
- June - Sheila Wellstone received the Women of Achievement Award from the Women's Information Network in Washington D.C.
- Spring - Sheila Wellstone was appointed to the planning board for the American Bar Association/American Medical Association conference on domestic violence.
- Jan. - Sheila Wellstone was awarded the Marvelous Minnesota Women's Award by the Women's Consortium, a bipartisan women's political organization for her work on domestic violence.

1993

- Dec. - The Violence Reduction Training Act, legislation developed by Sheila Wellstone and introduced by Sen. Paul Wellstone, was signed into law by President Clinton.
- Oct. 28 - Sheila Wellstone testified before a Senate subcommittee on the Child Safety Act, legislation she developed and Sen. Paul Wellstone introduced.
- Oct. 2 - The Domestic Violence Firearm Prevention Act, legislation to prevent individuals who have been domestic abusers from obtaining a firearm and which Sheila Wellstone helped to craft, was introduced by Sen. Paul Wellstone.
- Oct. - "Silent Witness", an exhibit of 27 figures representing the 27 women who died in Minnesota in 1990 in domestic-violence related cases, was brought to the Russell Senate Office Building rotunda by Sen. Paul Wellstone and his wife, Sheila. "Silent Witness" was the first exhibit in Sheila and Paul Wellstone's annual October Domestic Violence Awareness display and reception.
- Oct. - "Domestic Violence Awareness Month 1993" is observed.
- May 4 - The Violence Reduction Training Act, a bill to provide for the training of health workers and public education on the problem of domestic violence and how to detect it, and the Child Safety Act, a bill to authorize grants to establish supervised parent and child visitation centers, both were developed by Sheila Wellstone and introduced by Sen. Paul Wellstone.
- Jan. 21 - Sen. Paul Wellstone cosponsored The Violence Against Women Act, which was introduced by Sen. Joseph Biden (D-DE).

1992

- May 28 - President Bush signed into law the Child Abuse, Domestic Violence, Adoption and Family Services Act into law which Sen. Paul Wellstone had cosponsored.

1991

- June 27 - Sen. Arlen Specter sponsored and Sen. Paul Wellstone cosponsored a bill which declared October "National Domestic Violence Awareness Month."
- April 17 - Sen. Paul Wellstone cosponsored the Child Abuse, Domestic Violence, Adoption and Family Services Act to provide funding for education about domestic violence and provide model state leadership incentive grants for domestic violence intervention. The bill was introduced by Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-CT).
- Jan. 14 - Sen. Paul Wellstone cosponsored a bill introduced by Sen. Joseph Biden (D-DE) to combat violence and crimes against women on the streets and in homes.

In addition to the numerous events that Sheila Wellstone has helped organize concerning domestic violence, Sheila Wellstone has also hosted more than fifteen town meetings to advocate domestic violence awareness in Minnesota since 1992.

National Network To End Domestic Violence

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The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) is a coalition of state domestic violence coalitions focusing on public policy and public education to end domestic violence. NNEDV was established to provide state coalitions with a vehicle to address federal policy issues relating to the intervention and prevention of domestic violence.

Formerly known as the Domestic Violence Coalition on Public Policy, NNEDV works with state coalitions to develop public policy, information and strategies to end domestic violence. NNEDV coordinates the efforts of state coalitions, working on behalf of local, community-based domestic violence programs, to communicate the voices and needs of battered women to national policymakers and members of Congress.

NNEDV works to advance legislation that improves protections and services for battered women; and to develop abuse awareness and educational outreach activities for its members.

NNEDV contributed to the drafting and passage of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994. The Act was the first comprehensive legislation to address domestic violence and sexual assault. NNEDV is now working to ensure that the programs and initiatives authorized in the Violence Against Women Act are fully funded and implemented.

In addition, NNEDV publishes a monthly legislative alert to its members and other activists on current issues affecting battered women. And, each year, NNEDV coordinates a legislative conference and Lobby Day in Washington, D.C. for state coalitions from throughout the United States.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 2, 1995

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN OBSERVANCE OF
NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

East Room

2:06 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Sergeant Wynn, for your remarks, and for dedicating your life to this important work. Thank you, Bonnie Campbell, for doing a great job as head of the Violence Against Women Program in the Justice Department. Thank you, Attorney General Reno, for believing in this and for driving it. Thank you, Secretary Shalala, for reminding us this is a human tragedy.

Thank you, Jerry Rossi. You stood up here and you tried to convince us that you were really worried about the bottom line, and everybody who saw you knew that what you were really worried about was all those people out there, right and wrong. And every American who can see you would be proud of you and would wish that every person in business in this country would have those values and that kind of passion. Thank you so much. (Applause.)

And thank you, Tana Sherman, for being brave enough to tell us your story. Before we came over here, Tana and the five people who are on the back row with Bonnie Campbell all told me their stories. One of them had to have her back broken before she actually asked for help. Another waited until her oldest child was assaulted with a meat cleaver.

This is not just a woman's problem. I was glad to hear that. This is a children's problem and it's a man's problem. And we're not doing anybody any favors, least of all the abusers, by ignoring it any longer. And I thank all these brave women for the power of their example. And there are others in this audience who have been severely abused in domestic situations -- I thank them all for having the courage to be here and for the fight they are fighting.

I'd also like to thank the Congress for the support that they gave this program a year ago, and to say a special word of appreciation to the United States Senate for restoring funding for the Violence Against Women Program just last week. Thank you, Senator Leahy; thank you, Congresswoman Morella; thank you, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren. And I have to thank my good friend, Senator Joe Biden, in his absence for all of their work on behalf of this program.

Last week we had a great week in Washington. We celebrated progress in peace in the Middle East. We celebrated the beginnings of peaceful agreements in Bosnia. I spend a whole lot of my time trying to make or keep peace -- Northern Ireland, Southern Africa, Haiti; trying to get rid of the nuclear weapons that have threatened to disturb our peace profoundly and permanently. But we don't need just peace with other countries. We need peace on our streets, in our schools, and perhaps most of all, in our homes. All of us should want a peaceful world, but we know a peaceful world has to start with each of us -- in our homes, and at work, and in our lives.

This problem has been swept under the rug for quite a long while now. It's really always existed at some level or another.

It is time to recognize that domestic violence can quickly and easily become criminal violent activity that affects us all -- regardless of our race or our income or our age, regardless of where we live or what we do.

You've heard about how it increases health costs and absenteeism and reduces the productivity of businesses. You know the most important thing is that it undermines the most important things in life -- it undermines the most important institution in the world.

Most of us have been privileged to know, in greater or lesser degree, the joys of family life. And everyone who has ever been part of any family knows there's no such thing as a perfect family, and they all have their problems. But there's a whole lot of difference between a family with joys and problems and a family dominated by violence and abuse.

If there is anything I could say to you today that would leave a lasting impression, I would hope it would be to echo what the fine man who introduced me said -- and that is that we don't have to put up with this. We do not have to put up with this. We can do something about it. It can be changed; it can be better.

And everybody, not just the battered women, but their children who suffer psychological wounds that can only be imagined and can never be fully predicted. And the abusers themselves will be better off if we determine that we are going to put a quick, firm, rapid, unambiguous stop to every single case we find about, as soon as we find out about it. That is what we should all leave here determined to do. (Applause.)

I wish the First Lady could be here today, but Hillary has to -- she's going to New York, and she couldn't be here. But when we lived in Little Rock, we spent a lot of time at the shelter for battered and abused women and children. It was run by some saintly

people we knew and respected. We enjoyed, if you can use that word, the time we spent there. We learned a lot. And it sort of stiffened my resolve to see this as a problem of society, not just an unfortunate thing that happens to some families on occasion, including mine.

And when we were debating the crime bill a year ago, I was so moved by the commitment that the Attorney General had and that many in the Congress had to make a bipartisan departure from national policy and say that we were actually going to single this out -- that we were going to pass a crime bill that was comprehensive and meaningful, that carried the real potential of lowering the crime rate; changing the conditions in which crime would occur. And it really was a brilliant piece of legislation. It had the assault weapons ban. It had stronger penalties for serious offenders.

You see now people are beginning to be put away for good under the three-strikes-and-you're-out law, and the two cases that I've seen, I'd say the law has been properly implemented. It had money for prevention, for community strategies. It had money for 100,000 police officers. We see all over the country now community policing lowering the crime rate. We do not have to put up with this; we can make this better. We can bring the crime rate down, and we can certainly reduce the rate of domestic violence.

But The Violence Against Women Act is really a peculiar part of the genius of the crime bill because of its commitment to raise to national prominence an issue that had never, ever been there before; and because it combines tough sanctions against abusers with assistance to police and to prosecutors and to shelters. And I don't know -- several of the people who talked to me before I came out here were emphasizing how important it is to educate and train not only the police officers, but also the prosecutors and the judges. All the police can do is to bring the case to the criminal justice system. Prosecutors and the courts have to do the rest.

To make sure this act had a good chance to work, we created the Office of Violence Against Women in the Justice Department, and we named Bonnie Campbell, the former Attorney General of Iowa, to head it. And we hope that we can say -- we hope that we can say now that as a matter of national policy, with the support of people all across America in uniform, in women's groups, in support groups -- the days of men using physical violence to control the lives of their wives, their girlfriends and their children are over. And it is not a women's issue, it's an American issue, it's a values issue, and it is now an issue around the world.

A lot of kind things have been said about the speech that Hillary made at the Women's Conference in Beijing, speaking out against abuses against women and little girls in other parts of the world. But I would remind you, she also spoke out against the problem of family violence. And the Beijing conference made that an international goal for improving the condition of women the world over. And since we had so much to do with that, we ought to say, we've got a lot of work to do right here in the United States, and we

want to lead the way to guarantee women and their children a safe life and a chance at a good, constructive family.

Again, let me say, I'm grateful to all the corporations who have worked on this. Jerry Rossi made an eloquent statement. There are many others -- the GAP, Liz Claiborne, Aetna, Polaroid are among the great companies in this country who have made a difference in the way their employees are treated and the way they think about themselves and their options and their possibilities. I thank them for that.

I want to thank the Congress again -- I mean, the Senate, for restoring the funding. I want to say again, we will not be able to do this right unless there are police officers like Sergeant Wynn who will give themselves to this work. And I often say this in Washington -- very often a national movement like this starts with someone like him, who had to live with the reality of domestic abuse. But we can't bring it all the way home with only police officers who grew up in families where there was abuse. We now have to have a systematic commitment to sensitize people who, thank God, did not have to live through it, to be a part of this movement; to sensitize prosecutors; to sensitize judges; to sensitize all of us in decision-making capacities, whether or not we had domestic abuse in our homes.

And let me finally say that as a kickoff to the National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I signed today an executive memorandum to ensure that our federal government continues to be a leader in this national effort. I've asked the heads of all the executive departments to conduct employee awareness campaigns modeled after the one that the Attorney General has put in place at the Department of Justice, to provide information and the resources to deal with domestic violence. After all, we know there must be federal employees at work, even as we speak, who themselves are the victims of domestic violence and who are sitting there at their desks staring blankly at a piece of paper while we here proclaim victory in this fight and they haven't even taken the first step. So we want to set a good example.

Let me lastly say that, to all the women here and all across America who are abused or who have been abused, you are not invisible. The people who have stood with you today can now say that you are being heard, you are being seen, you are being understood.

The following quote is from one of Hillary's favorite books, and I asked if I could use it today. It's called "In the Spirit," by Susan Taylor, the editor of Essence Magazine. And it talks about your courage, your strength and your hope. She writes -- quote -- "While we cannot change the past, with the wisdom of spirit, we can change what it means to us and to our future. With understanding and compassion, we can break a cycle of despair, rise above our sorrows and find a new emotional home from which to create a brighter tomorrow. Each breath we take offers us a chance to create a better life."

Now, I hope because of all these efforts, we will all, with each breath we take,

resolve that a part of that better life will be less and less and less domestic violence and abuse, until we have taken it out of the spirit and the soul and the life of the United States of America.

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

2:20 P.M. EDT

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Updated Information on Sheila Wellstone

*****Correction:** As we noted previously, Senator Wellstone and Sheila Wellstone donate their pay raises to domestic violence prevention organizations. Sheila Wellstone has worked closely with and has visited the Women's Advocacy Program in Faribault, MN but the program has not as of this date received a grant from the Wellstones.

For the last six years, Sheila Wellstone has traveled extensively throughout Minnesota to raise awareness about domestic violence. She has become a nationally-recognized leader in the area of domestic violence prevention. She and Senator Wellstone have worked closely to pass legislation on domestic violence prevention. When the Senate voted on the pay raise, Senator Wellstone voted no and he and Sheila donate the entire annual raise to battered women's shelters.

