



PENNSYLVANIA

COALITION

AGAINST

DOMESTIC

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PCADV Executive Director Peg Dierkers joined a coalition of human service providers, educators and policy experts in Harrisburg on June 28 to urge state legislators to enact a budget that preserves the fragile economic recovery and protects crucial services.

Speaking at a Capitol press conference, members of the Better Choices for Pennsylvania Coalition warned of potential job losses from a combination of proposed state budget cuts and the loss of \$850 million in public health care funding if Congress doesn't extend Federal Medical Assistance Percentage, or FMAP, funding.

In an April letter to U.S. Senators, Gov. Ed Rendell outlined the impact in Pennsylvania if FMAP isn't extended, including a 50 percent cut in funding for domestic violence, rape crisis and related services.

The coalition called on Congress to extend FMAP funding and the Pennsylvania Legislature to raise revenue as part of a balanced approach to the budget.

"We cannot turn our back on women and children in crisis during the worst economic downturn in a generation," Dierkers, co-chair of the coalition, said at the rally. "The question for lawmakers is, should we be giving special tax breaks for natural gas drilling, cigars and smokeless tobacco while cutting services to kids, victims of domestic violence and people with disabilities?"