



Diverse & Resilient 2439 North Holton Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212 | 414.390.0444 | [www.diverseandresilient.org](http://www.diverseandresilient.org)

March 13, 2009

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin  
Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Baldwin,

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is one of the leading causes of intentional injuries and a major correlate of health risk behaviors as identified in the Healthiest Wisconsin 2010 plan including: tobacco use, substance abuse, mental health, responsible sexual behavior, and access to health care. ***Our response to IPV, as individuals, as organizations, and as leaders is a major factor in ending violence in our communities.*** This work is inherently linked to our ability to help people find and build peace in their own lives; to help them find a better way of life.

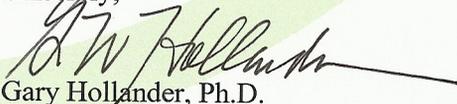
Research suggests that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people experience IPV at a rate similar or higher than the general community (25-35% of relationships). At the same time, there are few resources prepared to address the needs of LGBT people, including health resources, when they present as victims of IPV. In addition, LGBT victims of IPV are less likely to identify IPV as violence, are not aware that there is an IPV problem in their community, and are less likely to be aware of or access health or social service resources, which results in greater injury.

This project proposes to build the capacity of our response systems, both within the LGBT community and with the mainstream community, so that LGBT victims of IPV know where to go for help, who they can trust to be culturally competent, and feel stronger in their ability to change their lives.

This project will be headquartered in Madison and will work to build awareness and responsiveness of IPV in several communities around the state. The mission of Diverse and Resilient, Inc. is to support the healthy development of LGBT people in Wisconsin through the development of groups and communities to take action. Our primary activities focus on building the capacity of individuals, groups, and organizations to support LGBT youth in several communities around the state. This has resulted in a wide network of allies that will assist with this project, increased community visibility, and enhanced diversity in our communities.

We are requesting \$154,000 from the federal appropriations to improve our state's response to IPV within LGBT communities by increasing awareness and reducing barriers to the health and social services needed to improve the lives of victims of IPV. Thank you for this opportunity to request funds. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Gary Hollander, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Diverse and Resilient, Inc.