



## Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Rep. Shuler Announces Violence Against Women Prevention Grant**

*Washington, D.C.* – Representative Heath Shuler announced today that the 30<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Domestic Violence-Sexual Assault Alliance (Alliance) has been awarded a grant from the Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women. The \$369,985 grant will be used to provide training to law enforcement, prosecutors, and local courts to create a multidisciplinary approach to addressing the abuse of elderly women.

“Committing an act of violence against any individual is unacceptable, but the exploitation, abuse, or assault of elderly women is particularly heinous. We must work together as a community to stop violence before it occurs. However, when these tragic acts occur, we must prosecute the perpetrators to the fullest extent of the law,” said Rep. Shuler. “I am very proud that my office was able to assist the Alliance in securing this grant to better protect the most vulnerable members of our communities.”

Sybil Mann, executive director of the Alliance, was thrilled with the grant award. “We are very thankful for Rep. Shuler's assistance in securing this important funding. It will provide valuable tools and training for law enforcement officials and the criminal justice system to strengthen our response to these vulnerable, and often hidden, victims in our communities.”

Mike Bonfoey, the District Attorney for the 30<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, was also pleased with the grant. “This federal funding will allow my office and the Sheriff's Departments across Western North Carolina to find, arrest, prosecute, and convict these criminals. I thank Alliance for their work on this grant, and I thank Rep. Shuler for his assistance in securing it.”

The Alliance consists of the Sheriff's Departments for Cherokee, Clay, Haywood, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain Counties; the office of the District Attorney for the 30<sup>th</sup> Judicial District; Adult Protective Service; and the Department of Social Services.

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