



# *National Coalition of Free Men*

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## ***Activists object to County's discrimination against males.***

The L.A. chapter of the National Coalition of Free Men will testify May 15 before the L.A. County Supervisors at 500 West Temple over discrimination against males in the Agenda [http://bos.co.la.ca.us/SCRIPTS/c\\_tuagen/T051501\\_e.htm](http://bos.co.la.ca.us/SCRIPTS/c_tuagen/T051501_e.htm).

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Item 58 authorizes \$1,626,000 for domestic violence shelters, but \$0 for male victims. "This totally ignores the advice of the American Medical Association (AMA)," says Marc Angelucci, a public interest attorney for the mentally disabled. "In a 1994 report the AMA asserted that it:

- 'Recognizes that men also are among the victims of intimate violence,'
- 'Encourages other organizations to recognize this fact,' and
- 'Urges hospitals, community mental health agencies, and other helping professions to develop appropriate interventions for all victims of intimate violence.'"

<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/article/2036-2559.html>

The National Institute of Justice found that 835,000 men were victims of domestic violence in 1998 alone, making them 39% of the victims. (See Exhibit 7 at <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles/172837.pdf>.) Yet the only shelter the hotlines refer male victims to in LA County is the Valley Oasis shelter in Lancaster.

"During my tenure at Valley Oasis I saw men travel long distances, sometimes 100 miles each way, to receive services that were available to women in their own area but not to them," says Pat Overberg, the former Executive Director of Valley Oasis. "Many in the field resist helping males out of fear that male victims will take their funds, which is just ridiculous. This is a human rights issue, and fixing it will require a class action lawsuit."

### **FATHERS**

Agenda Item 63 seeks a \$386,000 State grant to prosecute those who commit statutory rape of minors – but only if they are males who slept with females – and to collect child support from the "fathers." "Males are statutorily raped too, but the County seems to be using teen pregnancy as an excuse to continue vilifying fathers just to win favor with certain special interest groups," says Angelucci.

### **MEN'S HEALTH VERSUS MILITARY CONSCRIPTION**

On March 20, 2001 the County Supervisors voted to support AB 1572, a State bill that would require males ages 18 to 25 to register for the draft before obtaining or renewing a Driver License. (Item 3: [http://bos.co.la.ca.us/SCRIPTS/c\\_tuagen/T032001\\_e.htm](http://bos.co.la.ca.us/SCRIPTS/c_tuagen/T032001_e.htm).)

"Instead of encouraging men's draft registry the County should encourage improvements in men's health and longevity by supporting the Men's Health Act," ways Angelucci, speaking of H.R. 632, a House bill that would create an Office of Men's

Health. Seventy-two members of the U.S. Congress endorse H.R. 632 and declare that ‘[a] silent health crisis is affecting the health and well-being of America’s men.’

“Supporting something positive like H.R. 632 would benefit our communities much more than treating men as wallets and conscripts and driving males further into homelessness, incarceration, suicide and early deaths. This impacts not only males but their loved ones as well, and that includes everybody.”

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