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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**New Funding Stream for California Rape Crisis Centers
Included on California State Tax Return**

SACRAMENTO, CA. – Today, The California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) unveiled a campaign to raise funds to support California’s rape crisis centers (RCCs). This new funding stream will be directed to RCCs via the California Sexual Violence Victim Services Fund that is included on the 2014 California State Tax Return as a voluntary contribution line item.

“California rape crisis centers are notoriously underfunded, currently the State’s general fund only allocates \$45,000 per year to rape crisis centers,” said Sandra Henriquez, Executive Director of CALCASA. “Through a tax check-off program, we have the ability to provide supplemental funding to the organizations that provide vital crisis intervention and prevention services to victims of sexual violence. This is an easy way for California taxpayers to support services for rape survivors.”

The California Sexual Violence Victim Services Fund was created through SB 782, a piece of legislation signed by Governor Brown in September of 2014. CALCASA sponsored SB 782 (DeSaulnier), which established the fund for inclusion on the California State Tax Return.

The funds generated will be managed by the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services and directed, as grants, to California rape crisis centers to support a variety of activities including emergency fund resources for travel or hotel vouchers for victims escaping dangerous situations or for community education programs like self-defense workshops.

CALCASA created a campaign to raise awareness for the new fund and to encourage Californians to prioritize survivors of sexual assault this tax season. California taxpayers can voluntarily contribute to the California Sexual Violence Victim Services Fund located on Form 540, Side 4, Line 26 and Code 429.

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CALCASA is the only statewide organization in California whose sole purpose is to promote public policy, advocacy, training and technical assistance on the issue of sexual assault. CALCASA convenes statewide and national training conferences and its primary membership is composed of the 84 rape crisis centers and rape prevention programs in California. For more information, visit www.calcasa.org.