



FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES REAUTHORIZATION ACT (FVPSA) S. 2784/H.R. XXXX

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) urges you to cosponsor S. 2784, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Reauthorization (FVPSA) Act. Introduced on April 26, 2018 by Senators Heller (R-NV), Casey (D-PA), Grassley (R-IA), Coons (D-DE), and Cornyn (R-TX), this bipartisan legislation renews the only federal funding solely dedicated to domestic violence.

FVPSA is at the heart of our nation's response to domestic violence services, ensuring that local domestic violence shelters and programs are able to keep their lights on and doors open to serve more than 1.3 million victims and their children every year. FVPSA funds nearly 1,600 community-based programs through state formula grants. These programs provide emergency shelter, counseling, legal assistance, crisis intervention, and domestic and dating violence prevention education.

A multi-state study, funded by the National Institute of Justice, shows conclusively that the nation's domestic violence programs address both the urgent safety needs and long-term security needs of victims and are helping victims protect themselves and their children. This same study found that, if shelters did not exist, the consequences for victims would be dire, including "homelessness, serious losses including [loss of] children [or] continued abuse or death."

Recent high-profile cases have brought a national focus on domestic violence. Additionally, the #MeToo movement has given survivors a renewed courage to come forward for help. Unfortunately, domestic violence shelters overwhelmingly report that they struggle to meet the demand for these critical services. Each year, NNEDV releases a report entitled *Domestic Violence Counts: A 24-hour National Census of Domestic Violence Services (Census)*. The report revealed that in just one day in 2017, 72,245 victims of domestic violence received services; however, 11,441 requests for services went unmet due to lack of funding and resources. **NNEDV urges you to stand with survivors by cosponsoring the FVPSA Reauthorization Act.**

FVPSA helps communities address domestic violence and serve victims through:

- Local **shelters** and **programs** for adults and children who are escaping violence;
- State **Domestic Violence Coalitions** that coordinate statewide initiatives to address domestic violence;
- Funding for **Tribal governments** to provide essential services to survivors;
- The **National Domestic Violence Resource Network**, which provides training and technical assistance to grantees and programs;
- The **Children's Program**, which supports abused parents and their children to disrupt the cycle of violence;
- **DELTA Prevention Grants**, administered by CDC, that allow communities to develop innovative prevention programs to stop abuse before it starts; and
- The **National Domestic Violence Hotline**, which is often the first call made by survivors;

About NNEDV

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) represents the 56 state and territorial coalitions against domestic violence. As a leading national voice against domestic violence, NNEDV fights to make the elimination of domestic violence a national priority, change the way society responds to domestic violence, and strengthen advocacy at the national, statewide, and local levels.