Research confirms that domestic violence negatively impacts every community in the United States, affecting one in three women and one in four men, with profound and enduring health, economic and other consequences across the lifespan. Studies focusing on children’s exposure to violence find that one in five children witnesses parental assault, leading to increased risk of experiencing or perpetrating domestic violence as adults and underscoring the need and opportunity for early intervention, including promoting protective factors within the family and community that help develop resiliency among children and teens. CDC recently documented the staggering costs of this violence in *Lifetime Economic Burden of Intimate Partner Violence Among U.S. Adults* (2018), which found “estimated lifetime costs of $103,767 per female victim and $23,414 per male victim or a population economic burden of nearly $3.6 trillion (2014 US$) over victims’ lifetimes, based on 43 million U.S adults with victimization history.”

**Preventing domestic violence is possible**

We now know more about how to prevent domestic violence from continuing and how to prevent it from happening in the first place, as well as effective approaches to lessen the immediate and long-term impacts of partner violence. CDC’s National Center on Injury Prevention and Control has documented effective strategies and approaches in its comprehensive *Preventing Intimate Partner Violence Across the Lifespan: A Technical Package of Programs, Policies, and Practices* (2017). A recent Blue Shield of California report, *Breaking the Cycle: A life course framework for preventing domestic violence* (2019) provides further guidance to the field on how to invest prevention resources wisely and with greatest impact.

**Proposed FVPSA Enhancements (S. 2259 and H.R. 5041)**

Enhancements to §10414 of FVPSA, the Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership (DELTA) grants, are designed to increase primary prevention capacity at the state, tribal, territory and local levels while continuing to build evidence for effective multi-faceted prevention approaches that reduce and end domestic violence.

This robust approach proposed for FVPSA has three key components:

- Provide new core grants of up to $150,000 to each State, Territorial and Tribal Coalition to build organizational capacity and state leadership for primary
and secondary prevention of domestic violence, including collaboration with other systems central to prevention efforts (to be administered by CDC).

★ Continue support for CDC’s current DELTA Program, which provides competitive funds of up to $400,000/year for 10 state coalitions working in partnership with local programs. These projects design, test and/or scale up innovative domestic violence and dating violence prevention models and systematically evaluate their effectiveness.

★ Provide new grants to local community-based programs to enhance the capacity of communities and systems to engage in effective prevention efforts, particularly those serving culturally specific or traditionally underserved communities (to be administered by the FVPSA Program).

A multi-level and multi-faceted approach, supported by a more robust federal investment, will help build new pathways, partnerships, and innovations to strengthen healthy relationships between intimate partners, build community capacity to prevent domestic violence, and alleviate the burden and costs of domestic violence on individuals, systems, and society as a whole.

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