



Help End Abusive Living Situations (HEALS) Act

The bipartisan **Help End Abusive Living Situations (HEALS) Act**, would encourage the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to address the urgent housing and safety needs of survivors of domestic violence.

Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women and their children. Abusers commonly sabotage a victim's economic stability. Survivors of domestic violence often must flee their homes to escape life-threatening violence. Securing safe, affordable housing is a crucial step on the pathway to a survivor's long-term recovery. Survivors of domestic violence have unique safety, confidentiality, and trauma-related needs that must be addressed through survivor-centered housing.

Unfortunately, recent changes in HUD's Continuum of Care (CoC) funding allocation have reduced support for domestic violence transitional housing programs, leaving many communities without the resources they need to provide this safe housing for survivors. The HEALS Act would help preserve existing effective transitional housing programs and encourage new investments in transitional housing for survivors.

The HEALS Act (S. 1624 and H.R. 5184) eliminates barriers survivors face in securing and maintaining housing by:

- ★ **Increasing HUD resources for transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence**
 - HUD would afford equal consideration in funding decisions to transitional housing, rapid re-housing projects, and projects that provide permanent supportive housing.
 - Congress would review trends in resources allocated to address the housing needs of survivors.
- ★ **Creating standards for evaluating how well CoCs address the needs of domestic violence survivors and how individual programs meet safety-focused outcome measures**
 - HUD would be required to develop criteria to evaluate how well a CoC applicant serves survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including collaboration with victim service providers.
 - The criteria for program evaluation would be amended to include a focus on safety and survivors' needs.



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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.

For more information about the HEALS Act and other housing policy, contact Monica McLaughlin, mmclaughlin@nnedv.org and Debbie Fox, dfox@nnedv.org.