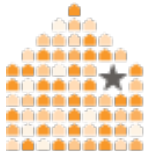




National Resource Center
on Domestic Violence



AKN.W.R.C.
ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER



NNE DV
NATIONAL NETWORK
TO END DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE



N | C | D | B | W
NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
THE DEFENSE OF BATTERED WOMEN
Working for justice for victims of battering charged with crimes

NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
NCADV



national latin@ network

apigbv
ASIAN PACIFIC INSTITUTE
ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



BATTERED WOMEN'S
JUSTICE PROJECT

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

NCAVP
NATIONAL COALITION of
ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS
National Advocacy for Local LGBTQ Communities

FUTURES
WITHOUT VIOLENCE



NATIONAL
INDIGENOUS
WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER



STRONGHEARTS
Native Helpline

NATIONAL
LGBTQ
INSTITUTE
ON IPV



National
Congress of
American
Indians

NATIONAL CENTER ON
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,
TRAUMA, AND
MENTAL HEALTH

UjIma
The National Center on Violence Against
Women in the Black Community

July 13, 2021

Rep. Bobby Scott
Chairman
House Committee on Education & Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
House Committee on Education & Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Foxx:

The undersigned organizations thank the Committee for the work on the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) to the bipartisan Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvements Act (FVPSA), H.R. 2119, to re-authorize core support and enhance comprehensive responses to domestic violence, family violence, and dating violence and express our profound support for the ANS. FVPSA provides critical support for shelters, coalitions, training and technical assistance centers, children's services, emergency response hotlines, and prevention initiatives. This bill also expands grant programs and makes many needed improvements to ensure more survivors have access to support and safety.

FVPSA provides core funding to support more than 1,500 local, public, private, nonprofit and faith-based organizations and programs and over 250 tribes and tribal organizations in responding to the urgent needs of over 1.3 million domestic violence victims and their children.ⁱ As you know, there is still a great need to increase survivors' access to these vital programs as well as to address current unmet needs. Estimates show that due to a lack of capacity, nearly 200,000 requests for shelter can go unmet in a year.ⁱⁱ As demonstrated in the annual survey of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, in just one day in 2020, programs across the country were unable to meet 11,407 requests from survivors (requests for emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, counseling, legal representation, and other supportive services).ⁱⁱⁱ

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and family violence. Survivors are at risk in a time of heightened economic, health, familial, and emotional trauma. Direct service providers are also grappling with the unprecedented challenge of housing survivors and providing life-saving services while following distance and separation protocols. The improvements made in this bill will greatly help meet the needs of survivors in the current crisis and beyond.

The important improvements in H.R. 2119 reflect the priorities of the domestic violence field and the diverse needs of survivors, including:

- Increasing the funding authorization level to address very low per-program funding levels and provide access to FVPSA funds for more programs not currently funded.
- Updating provisions and definitions to ensure access to services for all survivors, better alignment with related statutes, and reflect evolving best practices amongst service providers to provide uniform guidance to the domestic violence field.
- Strengthening the capacity of Indian Tribes to exercise their sovereign authority to respond more fully to domestic violence in their communities, and authorizing funding for tribal coalitions and the currently funded Alaska Native Women's Resource Center.
- Bolstering support for all survivors through a grant program that increases the capacity of culturally specific community-based organizations to expand access to safety for survivors of color, as well as provisions that promote best practices.
- Providing a more robust investment in prevention by bringing evidence-informed prevention initiatives to more tribes, states, and local communities across the country.
- Continuing and expanding support for national technical assistance (TA) centers and their work to develop effective policy, practice, research, and cross-system collaborations.
- Updating provisions to include additional access and resources for survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors, including a new TA center on enhancing accessible services for those survivors.
- Updating provisions for the National Domestic Violence Hotline and hotline services for underrepresented populations, including American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Deaf survivors.
- Creating an underserved grant program to increase access to safety for populations that face additional barriers.

We must continue to ensure that when survivors take the courageous step to reach out for support, individuals, organizations and institutions are prepared to address the risks faced by survivors and their children and improve efforts to create pathways to enhanced safety and well-being.

As you lead the efforts to markup the ANS, we thank you again for your leadership on behalf of survivors, their families, and their communities around the country, and hope the bill moves swiftly through the committee process.

Sincerely,

Alaska Native Women's Resource Center (AKNWRC)
Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence (ATCEV)
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence (API-GBV)
Battered Women's Justice Project (BWJP)
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities
Futures Without Violence
Lovelace Consulting, Inc.
National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health (NCDVTMH)
National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV)
National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP)
National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)
National Domestic Violence Hotline (The Hotline)
National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC)
National LGBTQ Institute on IPV
National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)
StrongHearts Native Helpline
The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV)
Ujima: National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community
YWCA USA

ⁱ https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fysb/fysb_fvpsa_factsheet_oct_2020_508.pdf

ⁱⁱ <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/fact-sheet/domestic-violence-and-homelessness-statistics-2016>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/15th-Annual-DV-Counts-Report-National-Summary.pdf>