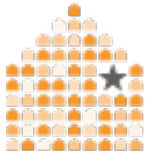




National Resource Center  
on Domestic Violence



A.K.N.W.R.C.  
ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER



NEDV  
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 **latin@** network



ASIAN PACIFIC INSTITUTE  
ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



BATTERED WOMEN'S  
JUSTICE PROJECT



eliminating racism  
empowering women  
ywca



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



NATIONAL  
INDIGENOUS  
WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER



STRONGHEARTS  
Native Helpline



National  
Congress of  
American  
Indians



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,  
TRAUMA, AND  
MENTAL HEALTH



The National Center on Violence Against  
Women in the Black Community

July 13, 2021

Senator Patty Murray  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Richard Burr  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murray and Ranking Member Burr:

**The undersigned organizations thank the Committee for the work on the Manager's Amendment to the bipartisan Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvements Act (FVPSA), S.1275, to re-authorize core support and enhance comprehensive responses to domestic violence, family violence, and dating violence and express our profound support for this bill. 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.<sup>i</sup> 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.<sup>ii</sup> 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).<sup>iii</sup>

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 S.1275 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 and includes a new resource center for Native Hawaiians.
- 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 amended bill in committee, 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

---

<sup>i</sup> [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fysb/fysb\\_fvpsa\\_factsheet\\_oct\\_2020\\_508.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fysb/fysb_fvpsa_factsheet_oct_2020_508.pdf)

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

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