

Advocacy Days

June 15-16, 2021



Reauthorize Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) with Key Enhancements and No Rollbacks

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) supports comprehensive, effective, and cost-saving responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. VAWA gives states and communities tools to help victims based on local and statewide needs and priorities. **VAWA expired in 2018 and must be reauthorized to provide safety and justice for all survivors.**

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) supports the bipartisan VAWA reauthorization bill, H.R. 1620, which includes **key improvements and no rollbacks of current protections and provisions.** Our priorities for VAWA reauthorization, most of which are addressed in H.R. 1620, are outlined below.

VAWA Reauthorization Priorities

No Rollbacks of Current Protections

- ★ Safeguard current VAWA provisions to ensure **all** victims and survivors have access to safety and justice.

Increase Investment in Culturally Specific Services

- ★ Authorize \$40 million for the Culturally Specific Services Program.

End Impunity for Non-Native Perpetrators of Violence against Native Women and Children

- ★ Address jurisdictional gaps to hold accountable perpetrators who commit sexual assault, stalking, child abuse, assault against law enforcement officers, and trafficking on tribal lands.

Improve Housing Protections and Provide Safe Housing Options

- ★ Provide options for survivors in federally-assisted housing to relocate to new, safe housing (through emergency transfers and related vouchers); maintain housing after a perpetrator leaves; or terminate a lease early.

- ★ Improve the homeless systems' responses to victims nationwide.

Increase Investment in Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention

- ★ Increase the authorization of the Rape Prevention & Education Program (RPE) to \$150 million and specifically include sexual harassment to its authorized use.
- ★ Increase funding for VAWA Consolidated Youth grants, which engage men and boys and promote healthy relationships to reduce gender-based violence.

Promote Economic Security for Survivors

- ★ Expand eligibility for unemployment insurance; create protections from employment discrimination based on victimization; and focus on public education related to economic abuse and economic security for victims.

Reduce Domestic Violence Homicides

- ★ Close dangerous legal loopholes in existing federal domestic violence-related firearms laws that will help reduce domestic and dating violence homicides.

Increase Avenues for Justice

- ★ Provide avenues to justice that focus on victim autonomy, agency, and safety, including investments in prevention, services, and responses beyond a criminal system approach, as well as expanded access to VAWA-funded legal services.

Increase Access to Safety for Immigrant Survivors

- ★ Include vital provisions for immigrant survivors that address the abuse they face, including protecting survivors from detention and deportation, increasing access to VAWA protections, reducing the wait for work authorization, and making desperately-needed U Visas more accessible.

Ensure Access to Lifesaving VAWA Services

- ★ Ensure compliance with VAWA non-discrimination requirements and guarantee equal access to VAWA protections for all victims regardless of gender.

About NNEDV

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) represents the 56 state and territorial coalitions 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. Please contact Melina Milazzo (MMilazzo@NNEDV.org) or Monica McLaughlin (MMcLaughlin@NNEDV.org).

