



National Task Force to End
Sexual & Domestic Violence

Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science

Senator, Jerry Moran, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science

Representative Hal Rogers, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science

Representative Matt Cartwright, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Commerce, Justice, Science

May 22, 2024

Dear Senators Shaheen and Moran and Representatives Hal Rogers and Cartwright:

The National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (NTF) represents national, tribal, state, and local organizations working to end domestic violence and sexual assault. The 352 undersigned organizations join with the NTF to urge you to increase funding for federal programs that address domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Domestic violence and sexual assault are pervasive crimes significantly impacting the safety and wellbeing of millions of people every day. We implore you to build upon our nation's progress in addressing these crimes by providing critically needed investments in the FY25 Commerce, Justice Science (CJS) bill.

Our nation has made phenomenal progress in understanding and addressing domestic violence and sexual assault. Congress is committed to making an ongoing, annual investment. Survivors rely on federally funded direct services such as shelters, rape crisis services, culturally specific services, legal assistance, counseling, and more. However, the overwhelming demand for services leaves many of these effective and essential programs short of the necessary funding to meet the need.

Return on Investment

A study shows that the lifetime economic cost of intimate partner violence to the U.S. population is \$3.6 trillion ¹. The societal costs of sexual violence are incredibly high, including medical and mental health care, law enforcement response, and lost productivity. Recent research sets the lifetime economic burden of rape at \$122,000 per victim and reveals a strong link between sexual violence and chronic disease ². While

these crimes are costly, advocacy programs supported by federal funding save lives and money and help victims heal. Studies have shown that an increase in the availability of legal services is associated with a decrease in intimate partner homicide³. Referring a victim to an advocate has been linked to an increased willingness to file a police report, keeping our communities safer⁴. A 2017 study highlighted the effectiveness of bystander intervention funded through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)'s Rape Prevention and Education Program in reducing sexual assault perpetration⁵. Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding has allowed communities to foster innovation, reduce waitlists, increase vital services, hire staff to counsel more survivors, and expand rural services.

Desperate Need Remains

Despite the efficacy of advocacy programs, domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, culturally specific organizations, and other domestic violence and sexual assault service providers continue to face budget shortfalls, exacerbated by economic strain in communities and increased rates of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as the \$600 million cut to VOCA in FY24. The ongoing national spotlight on these crimes brings more survivors out of the shadows and increases requests for services. We applaud survivors and are trying to address the increased demand for services. Unfortunately, many programs, as well as hotlines, are forced to turn away victims who are desperate and have nowhere to go.

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) reveals that domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are widespread. In fact, about 47% of women and 40% of men experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner and reported an intimate partner violence-related impact during their lifetime. Over 26 percent (26.8%) of women and 3% of men have experienced a completed or attempted rape in their lifetime, and almost 9.5 million women and almost 4.5 million men experienced sexual violence in the past year. A 2023 survey by the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence shows that 70% of the nation's 1,500 sexual assault programs experienced an increase in demand for services last year. One-third of programs reported a waiting list for services, especially impacting the availability of counseling, trauma-informed therapy, and support groups⁶. According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence's 18th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report, 76,975 victims of domestic violence received services in one day. However, on the same day, 13,335 requests for services went unmet due to a lack of funding and resources. Of those unmet requests, 54% were for safe housing⁷.

While violence impacts people from all walks of life, victims and survivors of color often face disproportionate harm and barriers. For example, Native women face some of the highest levels of violence of any group. Four in five American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime and overall, which comes to more than 1.5 million American Indian and Alaska Native women. Over 90% of these victims have experienced that violence at the hands of a non-Indian intimate partner.

FY25 Funding Needed to Support Survivors

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Crime Victims Fund (CVF)

VOCA uses non-taxpayer money from the CVF for programs that serve victims of crime, including state-formula victim assistance grants. These funds, which are generated by fines and penalties from federal prosecutions and non-prosecution and deferred prosecution agreements, support services to over six million victims of all types of crimes annually, through almost 6,500 direct service organizations, such as domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and child abuse treatment programs.

Deposits to the CVF began shrinking considerably in the past few years and, as a result, state programs have been experiencing massive cuts in victim services funding. **From FY23 to FY24, VOCA funds were reduced by around \$600 million, causing an average 40% cut to state victim assistance grants**, compounding cuts from FY22 and FY21. A 40% cut in VOCA funds will force victim service programs to reduce or eliminate services, lay off staff, and in some cases close their doors. As a result, countless victims in crisis will not be able to find help.

We urge Congress to:

- provide \$1.9 billion for VOCA programs in FY25 to address the urgent needs of victims of crime;
- pass the Crime Victim Fund Stabilization Act that provides additional funding to VOCA, from surplus funds generated by the False Claims Act (FCA) ⁸; and
- support a continued federal funding stream from VOCA for tribes. Individuals on tribal lands experience disproportionately high rates of domestic and sexual violence and need funding for victim services.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

Additionally, the federal government funds vital **VAWA programs** at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) that reach into every community across the nation to provide safety, access to services, and justice for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The formula grant programs and national services include:

- The Sexual Assault Services Program (VAWA, DOJ), which is the federal government's only funding source dedicated to sexual assault services and rape crisis centers in every state; and
- The STOP program (VAWA, DOJ), which improves the criminal justice and wider community response by allowing states and communities to develop coordinated community responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

We ask you to support and prioritize investments to reach the most vulnerable survivors, including increasing funding for culturally specific organizations; funding for LGBTQ+ survivors; and direct financial assistance to meet survivors' emergency needs.

This includes investments in VAWA discretionary programs that complement the state formula grants by propelling innovation and providing targeted responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. All the programs detailed in the attached [chart](#) work together to provide a comprehensive response to victims of gender-based violence. These include lifesaving legal services; funding for services in rural and remote areas; transitional housing programs to help victims rebuild their lives after violence and abuse; law enforcement improvements such as sexual assault response teams, initiatives to address the rape kit backlog, and homicide reduction initiatives; services for underserved victims, including individuals with disabilities and elderly victims; funding to ensure compliance with the requirement of serving victims with limited English proficiency; programs aimed at children, youth, and college students; projects addressing courts and visitation; programs to respond to the epidemic of sexual assault and domestic violence on tribal lands; projects addressing violence in the workplace; and prevention programs and public health responses to violence and abuse.

We ask Congress to fully fund VAWA programs in FY25.

We call on you to support increased funding for these vital programs. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Monica McLaughlin, National Network to End Domestic Violence, at mmclaughlin@nnedv.org or Terri Poore, National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, at terri@endsexualviolence.org.

Thank you for your continued leadership in keeping victims safe and healthy. We know our successes could not be achieved without your support, and we are grateful for all that you do.

Sincerely,

(list in formation)

¹ Peterson, C. et al. (2018). Lifetime Economic Burden of Intimate Partner Violence Among U.S. Adults. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 55(4): 433-444.

² Peterson C, DeGue S, Florence C, Lokey CN. Lifetime Economic Burden of Rape Among U.S. Adults. *Am J Prev Med*. 2017 Jun;52(6):691-701. doi: 10.1016/j.amepre.2016.11.014. Epub 2017 Jan 30. PMID: 28153649; PMCID: PMC5438753.

³ Reckdenwald, A., & Parker, K.K. (2010). Understanding gender-specific intimate partner homicide: A theoretical and domestic service-oriented approach. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 38: 951-958.

⁴ Campbell, R. (2006). Rape survivors' experiences with the legal and medical system: Do rape victim advocates make a difference? *Violence Against Women*, 12: 30-45.

⁵ Coker, Anne, et al., RCT Testing Bystander Effectiveness to Reduce Violence, available at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28279546>

⁶ The Impact of Federal Funding on Local Rape Crisis Centers: A 2023 National Alliance to End Sexual Violence survey of rape crisis centers (2023). Retrieved from https://endsexualviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/infographic_white_FINAL_brother1816.pdf

⁷ National Network to End Domestic Violence (2024). 18th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report. Washington, DC. Retrieved from: [NNEDV.org/DVCounts](https://nnedv.org/DVCounts)

⁸ See further detail on the President's CVF and VOCA budget proposal here <https://www.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh241/files/media/document/ojpfy25budgetrollout508.pdf> and [ojpfy25budgetrequestoverview508.pdf](https://www.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh241/files/media/document/ojpfy25budgetrequestoverview508.pdf)

National, International and Tribal Organizations

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence
ASISTA Immigration Assistance
Ashiyanaa
Caminar Latino-Latinos United for Peace & Equity
Esperanza United
Evangelical Covenant Church - Love Mercy Do Justice
Futures Without Violence
Jewish Women International
Justice & Joy National Collaborative (formerly National Crittenton)
Legal Momentum
Lisa Saruga, LLC.
Me Too International
Mujeres Latinas en Accion
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Council of Jewish Women
National Indigenous Women's Resource Center
National Organization of API Ending Sexual Violence
National Organization for Women
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Women's Political Caucus
Respect Together
Sexual Violence Prevention Association
Tahirih Justice Center
The National Domestic Violence Hotline
VALOR
Vote Run Lead
Women's March

Alabama

Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Alaska

Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

Arizona

Alice's Place
Arizona Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic Violence
Emerge Center Against Domestic Abuse
Jewish Family & Children's Service
Peer Solutions
Sojourner Center
Verde Valley Sanctuary

Arkansas

Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault

California

California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
Catalyst
Domestic Violence Solutions for Santa Barbara County
Family Violence Appellate Project
Hollywood Chapter of the National Organization for Women
Immigration Center for Women & Children
Jewish Family Service Los Angeles
The People Concern
Womanhaven/Center for Family Solutions
YWCA San Diego County

Colorado

Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Violence Free Colorado

Connecticut

Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence
Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Delaware

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

District of Columbia

DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
DC Coalition to End Sexual Violence

Florida

Florida Council Against Sexual Violence

Georgia

Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Hawaii

Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Illinois

Anew: Building Beyond Violence & Abuse
Ascend Justice
Between Friends
Cairo Women's Shelter, Inc.
Catholic Charities Diocese of Des Moines

Community Crisis Center, Inc.
Crisis Center of South Suburbia
Crisis Intervention & Advocacy Center
Dove, Inc.
EMBARC
Family Rescue
Family Resources, Inc.
Family Shelter Service of Metropolitan Family Services DuPage
Freedom House
Friends of the Family
Harbor House
Helping Services' Domestic Abuse Resource Center
HOPE of Ogle County
Howard & Evanston Community Center
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence
KAN-WIN
Lake County Crisis Center dba A Safe Place
Metropolitan Family Services
Mujeres Latinas en Accion
Mutual Ground
Quincy Area Network Against Domestic Abuse
Remedies Renewing Lives
Riverview Center
SafePlace
Sarah's Inn
Stopping Woman Abuse Now
The Network Advocating Against Domestic Violence
Thrive Together Today
Violence Prevention Center of Southwestern Illinois
VOICES of Stephenson County
Western Illinois Regional Council Community Action Agency, Victim Services
YWCA of the Sauk Valley

Indiana

Alternatives Incorporated of Madison County
Council on Domestic Abuse, Inc.
Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc.
Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault & Human Trafficking
Prevail, Inc.
Sheltering Wings
YWCA Greater Lafayette

Iowa

Amani Community Services
Domestic Violence Intervention Program
Family Crisis Centers

Family Resources
Helping Services for Youth & Families
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Monsoon Asians & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity

Kansas

Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence

Kentucky

Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs, Inc.
ZeroV

Louisiana

Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Maine

Caring Unlimited
Family Violence Project
Her Safety Net
Hope & Justice Project
Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
Next Step Domestic Violence Project
Partners for Peace
Safe Voices
Through These Doors

Maryland

CASA, Inc.
Center for Abused Persons
Dove Center
Family Crisis Resource Center, Inc.
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence
Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy
The Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center

Massachusetts

A Safe Place, Inc.
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence
Children's Charter Division of The Key Program, Inc.
Elizabeth Freeman Center, Inc.
Family & Community Resources, Inc.
Jane Doe, Inc.
Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center

Melrose Alliance Against Violence
New Hope, Inc.
NELCWIT
REACH Beyond Domestic Violence
Saheli, Inc.
Spanish American Center, Inc.
The Network/La Red
Violence Recovery Program, Fenway Health
YWCA Central Massachusetts

Michigan

Michigan Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence

Minnesota

Alexandra House, Inc.
Anna Marie's Alliance
Asian Women United of Minnesota
CADA
Cornerstone Advocacy Service
Hands of Hope Resource Center
Missions, Inc.
New Horizons Crisis Center
Northeast Youth & Family Services
Pearl Crisis Center
Someplace Safe
Standpoint
ThinkSelf Deaf Adult Education & Advocacy
Tubman
Violence Free Minnesota
Women's Advocates
Women's Initiative for Self Empowerment
WoMen's Rural Advocacy Programs, Inc.
360 Communities

Mississippi

Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence
Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault
The Shafer Center for Crisis Intervention

Missouri

Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault
Missouri Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

Montana

Abbie Shelter

Custer Network Against Domestic Abuse, Inc.
Friendship Center of Helena, Inc.
Haven
Montana Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
Sanders County Coalition For Families
Victim-Witness Assistance Services
YWCA Billings
YWCA Great Falls

Nebraska

Bright Horizons Resources for Survivors of Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, Inc.
Catholic Charities of Omaha, Domestic Violence Services
Center for Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Survivors
Domestic Abuse/Sexual Assault Services
EnCourage Advocacy Center
Friendship Home of Lincoln
Haven House Family Services Center
Healing Hearts & Families
Keith County Attorney's Office
Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic Violence
Parent-Child Center
Rape/Domestic Abuse Program
Sandhills Crisis Intervention Program
The Bridge
The DOVES Program
Voices of Hope Lincoln, Inc.
Willow Rising
Women's Center for Advancement

Nevada

Nevada Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

New Jersey

New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence

New Mexico

New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence

New York

Girls for Gender Equity
New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

North Carolina

Center for Psychotherapy
Friend to Friend
Hyde County Hotline, Inc.
My Sister's House, Inc.
North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence
North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Ruth's House
Steps to H.O.P.E., Inc.
Turning Point, Inc.

North Dakota

CAWS North Dakota
Rape & Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead

Ohio

Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence
Ohio Domestic Violence Network

Oregon

Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force

Pennsylvania

ACCESS-York
Alle-Kiski Area HOPE Center, Inc.
A Safe Place, Inc.
A Way Out
Abuse & Rape Crisis Center
Blackburn Center
Citizens Against Physical, Sexual, & Emotional Abuse, Inc.
Community Action, Inc.
Domestic Violence Center
Domestic Violence Service Center
Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern Pennsylvania
HAVEN of Tioga County
Helping All Victims in Need
Laurel House
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect
Safe Journey
SafeNet
Transitions of PA
Victims' Intervention Program of Wayne & Pike County
Women In Transition

Women's Resource Center
Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh
YWCA Greater Harrisburg
YWCA Northcentral PA
YWCA York

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence

South Carolina

Family Justice Center of Georgetown & Horry Counties
Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons, Inc.
First Light
Hopeful Horizons
Meg's House
My Sister's House
Palmetto Citizens Against Sexual Assault
Pathways to Healing
Pee Dee Coalition
Rape Crisis Center of Horry & Georgetown Counties
Sistercare, Inc.
South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
Tri-County S.P.E.A.K.S.

South Dakota

South Dakota Network Against Family Violence & Sexual Assault

Tennessee

Avalon Center: Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Program
Center of Hope
Domestic Violence Program, Inc.
Genesis House, Inc.
Haven House, Inc.
Iva's Place
SafeSpace
Sexual Assault Center
Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence
Women Are Safe, Inc.
YWCA Nashville & Middle Tennessee

Texas

Texas Council on Family Violence
Texas Association Against Sexual Assault

Utah

CAPSA

DOVE Center
Friends Against Family Violence
Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake
New Hope Crisis Center
New Horizons Crisis Center
Peace House, Inc.
Safe Harbor Crisis Center
Seekhaven Family Crisis & Resource Center
The Refuge Utah
Utah Domestic Violence Coalition
Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance
YWCA Utah

Vermont

Vermont Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

Virginia

Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance

Washington State

Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services
Atlantic Street Center (Seattle, WA)
Citizens Against Domestic & Sexual Abuse
Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation Domestic Violence Advocacy Program
Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services
Domestic Violence Services of Sno. County
Emergency Support Shelter
Family Support Center of South Sound
Global Perinatal Services
Healthy Families of Clallam County
King County Sexual Assault Resource Center
Lutheran Community Services Northwest
New Beginnings
New Hope
Rebuilding Hope Sexual Assault Center
Rural Resources Victim Services and CAC
SafePlace
Support, Advocacy & Resource Center
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
YWCA Clark County

West Virginia

AWAY
Centers Against Violence
CONTACT Rape Crisis Center

Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center
Family Crisis Center, Inc.
Family Crisis Intervention Center
Rape & Domestic Violence Information Center
REACH/TCC
SAFE, Inc.
Task Force on Domestic Violence, "HOPE, Inc."
The DOVE Project
Upper Ohio Valley Sexual Assault Help Center, Inc.
West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information & Services

Wisconsin

ASTOP, Inc. Sexual Abuse Center
Bad River Tribe
BeLEAF Survivors
Benedict Center
Embrace Services, Inc.
End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin
Family Services of Northeast WI, Inc.
FRIENDS, Inc.
Hope House of South Central Wisconsin
Milwaukee Center for Children & Youth
New Beginnings APFV
New Horizons Shelter & Outreach Centers, Inc.
Pride Theatre Productions
RCC Sexual Violence Resource Center
Reach Counseling Services
Rock County LGBTQ+ Committee
Sexual Assault Recovery Program & Defy Domestic Abuse Beloit
Stepping Stones, Inc.
Tri-County Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, Inc.
UNIDOS Against Domestic Violence
Violence Intervention Project
Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Wise Women Gathering Place

Wyoming

Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault