



National Task Force to End
Sexual & Domestic Violence

Senator Chris Murphy, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Senator Katie Britt, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Representative Mark Amodei, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Representative Henry Cuellar, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

May 22, 2024

Dear Senators Murphy and Britt and Representatives Amodei and Cuellar:

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 for immigrant survivors. 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 incredibly needed investments in the FY 2025 Homeland Security bill to ensure immigrant survivors have greater access to the programs they need to achieve safety and independence.

The Needs of Immigrant Survivors

Many abusers use immigration status to control their victims. Fortunately, Congress has recognized these risks and created the U visa and VAWA self-petition remedies. The U- visa was established in 2000 for victims of certain designated crimes who suffered substantial physical or mental abuse and are certified as helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity.

However, due to the delay in the issuance of regulations until 2007, the 10,000 visas available annually were not allocated during FY2001-FY2007. The unallocated visas must be recaptured and used and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) needs more resources to significantly alleviate the backlog in visa processing.

Additionally, we request funds be allocated to the Humanitarian, Adjustment, Removing Conditions, and Travel Documents (HART) Service Center, the Vermont Service Center

Humanitarian Unit, and the Nebraska Service Center U visa unit to increase adjudication staffing in order to facilitate timely adjudication of the U-visa, T-visa and VAWA self-petitions.

We ask Congress to:

- Provide \$500 million to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to address backlogs, with at least \$22 million dedicated to processing victim-related applications within 90 days of applying, issue work authorization within 180 days after applying or getting approved, and provide training for staff;
- Recapture the unallocated visas from the date of the enactment of the U-visa program until the present day — a minor technical change that would significantly alleviate the backlog of over 314,000 primary applicants awaiting U-visas;
- Fund Policy Advisors within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL), Council on Combating Gender-Based Violence (the Council or CCGBV), to field inquiries from stakeholders regarding the implementation of immigration laws, regulations, and policies relating to GBV, to track, investigate, and issue recommendations for Department action on inquiries and complaints; and to provide critical expertise to the Department in developing and implementing policies that impact and pertain to survivors, including assisting with regulatory drafting and promoting a coordinated, consistent, and holistic approach to serving them (\$1 million request).

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)

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