



National Task Force to End
Sexual & Domestic Violence

Senator Tammy Baldwin, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Senator, Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Representative Robert Aderholt, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Representative Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

May 22, 2024

Dear Senators Baldwin and Moore Capito and Representatives Aderholt and DeLauro:

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 incredibly needed investments in the FY25 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS) bill.

Our nation has made phenomenal strides 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, 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 trillion¹. 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 disease². While these crimes are costly, advocacy programs supported by federal funding save lives, money and help victims heal. Referring a victim to an advocate has been linked to an increased willingness to file a police report, keeping our communities safer³. 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 perpetration.⁴ Domestic violence shelters, funded in significant part by the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), have proven to be successful at addressing victims' urgent and long-term needs while helping victims protect themselves and their children.

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. 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 groups⁵. 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 housing⁶.

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

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) supports lifesaving services, including emergency shelters, crisis hotlines, counseling, and programs for underserved communities throughout the United States. Administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), **FVPSA is the only federal**

funding source dedicated to domestic violence shelters and programs. Despite FVPSA's success, community-based domestic violence programs report that, at current funding levels, they cannot meet the overwhelming demand for services.

Additionally, the LHHS bill funds a number of other vital programs and services 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. These programs and national services include:

- Supporting a Culturally Specific Public Health Approach for Survivors Program - at the Office on Family Violence Prevention and Services to support survivors from Communities of Color who urgently need culturally specific services that address the nexus of domestic violence and sexual assault with other health outcomes. The program supports the leadership of Communities of Color advocates and organizations to develop or enhance appropriate services that are specific to their communities' needs.
- The Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancements and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA; HHS/CDC) - the only dedicated federal funding source for the primary prevention of domestic violence. In approximately 45 communities across the nation, the DELTA program identifies effective strategies to prevent first-time perpetration and first-time victimization of domestic violence.
- Rape Prevention and Education Grants (RPE) (HHS/CDC) formula grants, providing essential funding to states and territories to support prevention programs conducted by rape crisis centers, state sexual assault coalitions, and other public agencies and private nonprofit entities. The RPE program prepares individuals to get involved, prevent sexual violence, and create safer communities.
- Sexual Assault Partnership Demonstration Initiative (HHS) - a demonstration program to support comprehensive and collaborative service delivery for adult survivors of child sexual abuse and sexual assault survivors while deepening capacity and technical assistance at the Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services.
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline (HHS), which receives over 775,000 contacts per year; StrongHearts Native Helpline, which serves the specific cultural and jurisdictional needs of Native victims of domestic and dating violence; and Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services, which is the only national service program for Deaf and hearing-challenged survivors of domestic violence.

We ask Congress to provide:

- \$500 million for FVPSA;
- \$35 million for Supporting a Culturally Specific Public Health Approach for Survivors Program;
- \$30 million for a Sexual Assault Demonstrations program at HHS;
- \$100 million for RPE;

- \$26 million for DELTA program; and
- \$30 million for the National Domestic Violence Hotline, StrongHearts Native Helpline, and Abused Deaf Women’s Advocacy Services.

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 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.

⁴ Coker, Anne, et al., RCT Testing Bystander Effectiveness to Reduce Violence, available at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28279546>

⁵ 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

⁶ National Network to End Domestic Violence (2024). 18th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report. Washington, DC. Retrieved from: [NNEDV.org/DVCounts](https://nnedv.org/DVCounts)

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