



National Task Force to End
Sexual & Domestic Violence

Senator Brian Schatz, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Representative Steve Womack, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Representative Mike Quigley, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

May 22, 2024

Dear Senators Schatz and Hyde-Smith and Representatives Womack and Quigley:

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 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies bill.

Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women and their children. Abusers commonly sabotage a victim's economic stability and damage their credit, rental, and employment histories. Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault often flee life-threatening and/or traumatic circumstances and seek refuge through emergency shelter, transitional housing and rapid rehousing programs in order to avoid homelessness. Three women are killed each day in this country at the hands of current or former abusers.¹ Sexual assault survivors need housing supports for a range of reasons, including to escape current sexual assault occurring in or near their homes by a household or family member, landlord, maintenance worker, or neighbor; or because the person who sexually assaulted them has learned where they live and the survivor no longer feels safe at home from future sexual violence. Considering the prevalence of sexual abuse as a precursor to homelessness, the increased risks for sexual assault that homeless individuals face, and the ways in which safe affordable housing can be a protective factor against sexual victimization, it is imperative sexual assault survivors have access to housing supports.

These needs are exacerbated for victims of color and their children who, in addition to trauma, also face pervasive racism and increased barriers to housing. Yet,

survivors of color are often unable to access culturally relevant housing services that respond to their layered mental health and safety needs. Survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault must have access to housing; however, in a nationwide study, more than half of the survivors who identified a need for housing services in a single day did not receive them. According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence's 18th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report, in just one day in 2023, 44,616 adults and children were housed in domestic violence housing and shelter programs. On the same day, however, 7,143 requests for emergency shelter, transitional housing, hotels, motels, or other housing were denied due to a lack of resources. It is unconscionable that victims cannot find safety for themselves and their children due to a lack of adequate investment in housing services.²

FY25 Funding Needed to Support Survivors

Dedicated funds for survivor-specific housing, including rapid rehousing, offer stable resources for victim service providers to address the housing, safety, and confidentiality needs of survivors with a trauma-informed approach. Since FY18, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations committee has included a \$50-\$52 million set-aside for housing for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) homelessness assistance program (also known as the DV/SA Bonus Funds). These dedicated funds for survivor-specific housing resources, including rapid rehousing, are a vital funding source for victim service providers to address the unique safety needs of survivors.

Additionally, in FY23, Congress included funds for training and technical assistance on the implementation of housing protections for survivors created in the newly passed Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) 2022 Reauthorization. We appreciate the inclusion of these funds and urge Congress to continue providing resources for training and technical assistance. We also urge Congress to provide funding to staff and support the Office of Gender-Based Violence Office at HUD led by a VAWA Director. The newly established office will ensure that there is cross-cutting guidance and support to each and every HUD program office. A core function of the Office on Gender-Based Violence is to focus on the successful implementation of VAWA as well as other important policies impacting survivors of violence, within each housing and homelessness assistance program of HUD, as well as the other programs under the Department of Agriculture, Department of Treasury, and Department of Veterans Affairs. This huge mandate requires the office to have sufficient authority to direct this implementation within HUD and to have the authority to also coordinate with the other federal agencies. Thus, the Office must be given sufficient resources to achieve its goals.

We ask Congress to:

- allocate \$75 million for HUD's Continuum of Care Homeless Program to help survivors access safe, affordable housing and rebuild their lives;

- provide \$15 million in FY25 for domestic violence and sexual assault training and technical assistance and to implement VAWA; and
- provide resources to support the Office on Gender-Based Violence.

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 Shannon Catalano, Ph.D. (2013). Intimate Partner Violence: Attributes of Victimization, 1993-2011. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Retrieved from: <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/ipvav9311.pdf>

² 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