



National Task Force to End
Sexual & Domestic Violence

Senator Jerry Moran, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science

Senator, Chris Van Hollen, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science

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

Representative Grace Meng, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science

April 14, 2026

Dear Senators Moran and Van Hollen and Representatives Rogers and Meng:

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 247 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 FY27 Commerce, Justice Science (CJS) bill. Additionally we urge you to include language in the bill preventing the Department of Justice (DOJ) from consolidating the work of the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and urging the Department to release funding in a timely manner.

Survivors rely on federally funded direct services such as domestic violence 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

Federal funding plays a vital role in protecting survivors of these horrific crimes—offering them not just safety, but the opportunity to heal, rebuild and thrive. When that happens, our nation sees lower long-term costs, better public health, and safer communities. When survivors do not get the services they need, they face increased

risks of long-term physical, emotional, and psychological harm as well as economic impacts such as higher medical bills and loss of income or employment as result of violence. 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 homicide.³ Referring a victim to an advocate has been linked to an increased willingness to file a police report, keeping our communities safer.⁴ 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.⁵ 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 support 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, rising rates of domestic violence and sexual assault, and the \$600 million cut to VOCA in FY24. At the same time, the ongoing national spotlight on these crimes is bringing more survivors out of the shadows and increasing requests for services. However, funding cuts coupled with increased demand means that many programs continue to struggle to meet the needs of victims and survivors, jeopardizing their safety and leaving them with nowhere to turn for help.

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) reveals that domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are widespread. In fact, more than 1 in 3 women (nearly 43.5 million) and more than 1 in 6 men (20.7 million) experienced contact sexual violence, physical

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>

violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetimes.⁶ Nearly half of women and more than 1 in 6 men in the U.S. experienced some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetimes; more than 1 in 5 women and 1 in 31 men have experienced completed or attempted rape in their lifetimes.⁷ A 2025 survey by the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence shows that **60% of rape crisis centers** reported **increased demand** for services; **53% of rape crisis centers** had been forced to **reduce staff** in the past year; **50%** of programs report having **NO full time therapists/counselors** on staff; and, on average, programs indicated they need **two additional full time staff to meet the current demand**.⁸ According to the **National Network to End Domestic Violence's 20th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report**, **84,146 victims of domestic violence received services** in one day. However, on the same day, **13,018 requests for services went unmet due to a lack of funding and resources**. Of those unmet requests, **58% were for safe housing**.⁹

While violence impacts people from all walks of life, survivors from culturally specific communities face disproportionate harm. 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.¹⁰ 97% of these victims have experienced that violence at the hands of at least one non-Indian intimate partner.¹¹

FY27 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 advocacy centers.

Deposits to the CVF began shrinking considerably in the past few years and, as a result, state programs have experienced massive cuts in victim services funding. **From FY23 to FY24, VOCA funds were reduced by around \$600 million, causing an**

⁶ Zhang Kudon, H, Zhu S, Chen B, Breiding MJ, Leemis RW, Zhang X, Schwank A, Basile KC. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2023/2024 Data Brief – Intimate Partner Violence. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control; 2026.

⁷ Leemis RW, Zhang Kudon H, Zhu S, Smith SG, Chen J, Friar NW, & Basile KC. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2023/2024 Sexual Violence Data Brief. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2025.

⁸ National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (NAESV) Annual Rape Crisis Center Survey; 2025.

⁹ National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) 20th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report. Washington, DC; 2026.

¹⁰ National Institute of Justice, Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2016, <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/249815.pdf>

¹¹ National Institute of Justice, "Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men," June 1, 2016, <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/violence-against-american-indian-and-alaska-native-women-and-men>

average 40% cut to state victim assistance grants, compounding cuts from FY22 and FY21. These reductions in funding, combined with growing need, continue to strain programs, limiting their ability to meet the needs of victims and survivors and leaving many without access to critical services.

We urge Congress to:

- provide \$2 billion for VOCA programs in FY27 to address the urgent needs of victims of crime;
- reject any proposals to use VOCA funds for other Department of Justice (DOJ) programs, as this diverts critical resources away from direct services for victims;
- 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 funding for LGBTQ+ survivors.

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 this [chart](#) work together to provide a comprehensive response to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating 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; 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;

funding to support critical culturally specific services and responses; 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 FY27.

We call on you to support increased funding for these vital programs. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Melina Milazzo, National Network to End Domestic Violence, at mmilazzo@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

Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence
Coalition on Human Needs
Congregation of Our Lady of the Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Region
Esperanza United
Family Values at Work
Futures Without Violence
Joyful Heart Foundation
Legal Momentum, the Women's Legal Defense & Education Fund
Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health
National Congress of American Indians
National Council of Jewish Women
National Domestic Violence Hotline
National Indigenous Women's Resource Center
National LGBTQ Institute on Intimate Partner Violence
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
Orange Child
Peaceful Families Project
Tahirih Justice Center
United Church of Christ

ValorUS
Young Women's Christian Association USA (YWCA)

Alabama

Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Domestic Violence Intervention Center
Family Sunshine Center
SABRA Sanctuary
Victim Services of Cullman dba The Willow Path

Alaska

Alaska Network on Domestic & Sexual Violence
Kodiak Women's Resource & Crisis Center
The LeeShore Center
Tundra Women's Coalition
Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence (USAFV)
Working Against Violence for Everyone

Arizona

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic Violence

Arkansas

Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Ozark Rape Crisis, Inc.

California

California Partnership to End Domestic Violence

Colorado

Advocate Safehouse Project
Better Tomorrow
Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Domestic Safety Resource Center
Juniper Southern Colorado
Mariposa Center for Safety
Ouray Country Support & Advocacy Project
PeaceWorks, Inc.
Project Hope of Gunnison Valley
Project Safeguard
Response: Help for Survivors of Domestic Violence
Rise Above Violence
San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center
SARA House
Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Center (SAVA)
Violence Free Colorado

Wings

Connecticut

Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence
Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Delaware

Delaware Alliance Against Sexual Violence
Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

District of Columbia

District of Columbia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Florida

Haven of Lake & Sumter Counties
Women's Center of Brevard
Refuge House

Georgia

Georgia Coalition on Domestic Violence

Idaho

Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence
Lemhi County Crisis Intervention, Inc. dba The Mahoney House

Illinois

Clove Alliance
Community Crisis Center
Family Resources
Growing Strong Sexual Assault Center
Guardian Angel Community Services
Illinois Accountability Initiative
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Metro East Every Survivor Counts
Mujeres Latinas en Accion
Mutual Ground, Inc.
Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault
Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault
Prevail Illinois
Quincy Area Network Against Domestic Abuse dba QUANADA
Rape Advocacy, Counseling, & Education Services (RACES)
Resilience
Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling
Safe Journeys
Sexual Assault & Family Emergencies
Survivor Resource Center

Western Illinois Regional Council Community Action Agency, Victim Services
YWCA McLean County Stepping Stones
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago
YWCA of the Sauk Valley
Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center

Indiana

Coburn Place Safe Haven
Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault

Iowa

ACCESS
Amani Community Services
EMBARC
Family Crisis Center
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Thrive Together Today
Waypoint Services

Kansas

Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence

Kentucky

ZeroV

Louisiana

Chez Hope, Inc.
Domestic Abuse Resistance Team (D.A.R.T.)
Family Violence Program of St. Bernard
June N. Jenkins Women's Shelter
Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault
Metro Centers for Community Advocacy
Southeast Advocates for Family Empowerment

Maine

Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence

Maryland

CASA, Inc.
Dove Center
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy

Massachusetts

Jane Doe, Inc.

Michigan

Domestic Violence Escape, Inc. (DOVE)

Minnesota

Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Sexual Assault Services
Violence Free Minnesota

Mississippi

Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence
Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Missouri

Missouri Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

Montana

Montana Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

Nebraska

Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic Violence

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

Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY)
New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault
New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

North Carolina

North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence

North Dakota

North Dakota Domestic & Sexual Violence Coalition

Northern Mariana Islands

Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

Ohio

Alternatives to Living in Violent Environments, Inc. (A.L.I.V.E.)

Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter

Appleseed CMHC Safe Haven

Artemis Center

Auglaize County Crisis Center

Christina House/Catholic Charities Regional Agency

Cleveland Rape Crisis Center

Crime Victim Services

Crisis Care Line

Crossroads Crisis Center

DeafPhoenix

Domestic Violence Project, Inc.

Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services (ETSS)

EVE, Inc.

Family Abuse Center of Miami County

Family & Child Abuse Prevention Center

Haven House of Pickaway County, Inc.

Homesafe, Inc.

Hope & Healing Survivor Resource Center

Journey Center for Safety & Healing

New Choices, Inc.

Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence

Ohio Domestic Violence Network

Safe Harbour Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc.

Sandusky Valley Domestic Violence Shelter dba First Step

Shelter from Violence, Inc.

Southern Ohio Task Force on Domestic Violence

Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program

The Center for Child & Family Advocacy, Inc.

The Center for Family Safety & Healing

The Cocoon

The Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc.

The Lighthouse, Inc.

Transitions, Inc.

Tri-County Help Center, Inc.

WomenSafe

Women Helping Women

YWCA Dayton

YWCA Greater Cincinnati

Oregon

Hope & Safety Alliance (Womenspace)
Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force
The Harbor, Inc.
Tides of Change

Pennsylvania

Dinah
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect
Respect Together

Rhode Island

Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County
Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center
Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Women's Resource Center

South Carolina

South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

Tennessee

Domestic Violence Program, Inc.
Scott County Shelter Society
Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence

Texas

Texas Council on Family Violence

Utah

Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Utah Domestic Violence Coalition

Vermont

Vermont Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

Virginia

Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance

Washington State

Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services
API Chaya
Beyond Survival
Comprehensive Healthcare dba Aspen Victim Services Crisis
Support Network
Empowering Therapy, PLLC.

Family Support Center of South Sound
Gender Justice League
Hope Alliance
Kids Hope Children's Advocacy Center
King County Sexual Assault Resource Center
MiA - Mujeres in Action
Mother Nation
New Beginnings
New Hope
Our Sisters' House
Programs for Peaceful Living at Washington Gorge Action Programs
Rebuilding Hope Sexual Assault Center
SafePlace
Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness
Sexual Assault & Family Trauma Center at Lutheran Community Services Northwest
The Lighthouse: Advocacy, Prevention & Education Center
The Nurtured Nest: Trauma Sensitive Sensitive Doula Care, LLC.
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Young Women's Christian Association Clark County (YWCA)

Wisconsin

ASTOP Sexual Abuse Center
BeLEAF Survivors
Benedict Center
Community Referral Agency
Embrace Services, Inc.
End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin
Family Support Center
Hope House of South Central Wisconsin
Manitowoc County Domestic Violence Center dba InCourage
Milwaukee Center for Children & Youth
Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
New Beginnings APFV
New Horizons Shelter & Outreach Centers, Inc.
Rainbow House Domestic Abuse Services, Inc.
Stepping Stones, Inc.
The Bridge to Hope
The Women's Community
Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Wyoming

Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault