



National Task Force to End
Sexual & Domestic Violence

Senator Shelley Moore Capito, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Senator, Tammy Baldwin, 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

April 14, 2026

Dear Senators Moore Capito and Baldwin 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 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 incredibly needed investments in the FY27 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. Programs that work to prevent sexual assault and domestic violence make our communities safer. However, the overwhelming demand for services and prevention 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 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—on top of economic

impacts due to higher medical bills and loss of income as a result of trouble focusing at school or work.

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, 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 safer.³ 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 support and prevention 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. 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 violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetimes.¹ 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.² A 2025 survey by the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (NAESV) shows that **60%** of rape crisis centers reported increased demand for services and **56%** reported an increase in demand for prevention and education activities; **53%** of rape crisis centers experienced a reduction in staff in the past year; **50%** of programs report having NO full time therapists/counselors on

¹ 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.

² 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.

staff; and on average, programs indicated they need **two additional full time staff** to meet the current demand. Prevention funding has decreased for **more than half** of rape crisis centers over the past year. According to the **National Network to End Domestic Violence's 20th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report**, **84,126 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**.

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. Over 90% of these victims have experienced that violence at the hands of a non-Indian intimate partner.

FY27 Funding Needed to Support Survivors

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) supports lifesaving services, including emergency shelters, crisis hotlines, counseling, services for children exposed to domestic violence, 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 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 culturally specific 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.

- Rape Crisis Centers, Partnerships, and Resources to address sexual assault at the Office for Family Violence Prevention and Services (HHS). \$100 million is needed in FY27 for sexual assault services provided by rape crisis centers, building partnerships between rape crisis centers and behavioral health systems, and national sexual assault resource centers. While significant investments have been made to improve the criminal justice response to survivors, similar efforts are needed to build partnerships between sexual assault programs and health and human services agencies at the local, state, and national level.
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline (HHS), which receives over 742,000 contacts per calendar 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;
- \$100 million to continue rape crisis services, partnerships, and resources to respond to sexual assault at OFVPS;
- \$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.
- \$2 million to address Intimate Partner Violence/Public Health Partnerships/Project Catalyst at Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

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