



May 25, 2022

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cortez Masto and Senator Cornyn:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations that represent national organizations working to end domestic and sexual violence, thank you for championing the *Savings Access for Escaping and Rebuilding (SAFER) Act*.

As you know, the SAFER Act is an important change to retirement policy to allow survivors to withdraw up to \$10,000 penalty-free from their retirement plans for a year following domestic violence and would permit them to replace the funds withdrawn over a period of three years. We were pleased to see this provision pass the House as part of the Securing a Strong Retirement Act (H.R. 2954) in March by an overwhelmingly strong bipartisan vote of 414-5. This strong House vote coupled with your leadership in the Senate gives us hope that this change will become law in this Congress.

Financial abuse is a common tactic used by abusers, and the connection between domestic violence and an increased risk of unemployment and homelessness is clear. And then seeing the increased incidence of domestic violence during COVID just highlights even more the need for this policy change. Being able to access their retirement would allow a small group of survivors to build a bridge to a stable life as they leave their abusive relationship and avoid having to access other social services and seek shelter.

We look forward to working with you to enact this legislation this year. Thank you again for your leadership on the SAFER Act.

Sincerely,

Esperanza United (Formerly Casa de Esperanza National Latin@ Network)

Futures Without Violence

General Federation of Women's Clubs

Jewish Women International

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

National Domestic Violence Hotline

National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)

YWCA USA