



National Task Force to End Sexual & Domestic Violence

February XX, 2022

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joni Ernst
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Feinstein, Ernst, Durbin, and Murkowski:

The XXX undersigned local, state, territorial, national, and tribal organizations working to end domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking commend your leadership in introducing S. 3623, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2022, and offer our strong support of the bill. First enacted in 1994, VAWA creates and supports comprehensive, cost-effective responses to gender-based violence. We thank you all for your commitment to survivors and urge you to swiftly pass the bipartisan Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2022.

S. 3623 builds upon the House companion bill H.R. 1620 and maintains existing protections, as well as expands VAWA to address persistent gaps in the current law. Despite being narrower in some respects than the House bill, this survivor-centered legislation remains groundbreaking in many ways, and we believe it can win bipartisan passage in the Senate. The bill includes [many historic victories](#) that will prevent violence and increase access to services, safety, and justice by responding to contemporary challenges with real-world solutions. The legislation creates community pathways to justice; augments programs for rural survivors; reaffirms Tribal Nations' jurisdiction over non-Indian perpetrators of child violence, sexual violence, sex trafficking, stalking, crimes against tribal law enforcement and correctional officers, and obstruction of justice; establishes a pilot project that will allow a limited number of Alaska Native Villages to exercise special criminal jurisdiction over certain covered crimes; increases resources for Tribal Nations exercising Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction; creates a reimbursement program for tribal costs; enhances implementation and enforcement of VAWA's existing housing provisions and expands access to temporary and emergency housing; increases access for culturally

specific communities; increases resources for prevention; provides tools to ensure adjudicated abusers who are prohibited from possessing firearms do not obtain new ones; maintains vital non-discrimination protections; includes a new LGBTQ+ grant program; expands access to and training for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs); and continues to invest in lifesaving and healing services.

VAWA's current authorization expired in 2018, more than two years before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 has exacerbated barriers for survivors, leaving vital programs that serve survivors in critical need of additional resources. Now, more than ever, we are counting on the Senate to address the dire and evolving needs of survivors. We urge the Senate to recognize how important this bill is to their constituents by swiftly passing the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2022 to ensure survivors have access to the multitude of resources and options they need to protect themselves and their children and seek healing in these unprecedented times and beyond.

For more information, please contact Rachel Graber (rgrab@ncadv.org), Dorian Karp (dkarp@jwi.org), Monica McLaughlin (mmclaughlin@nnev.org), and Terri Poore (terri@endsexuaviolen.org).

National and Tribal Organizations:

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence
End Rape On Campus
Esperanza United (formerly Casa de Esperanza National Latin@ Network)
Futures Without Violence
General Federation of Women's Clubs
Jewish Women International
Joyful Heart Foundation
Legal Momentum, the Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Children's Alliance
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Congress of American Indians
National Council of Jewish Women
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Organization for Women
National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Sexual Violence Resource Center
RAINN
Tahirih Justice Center
The National Domestic Violence Hotline
Ujima Inc., The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community

UltraViolet
United State of Women