



National Task Force to End Sexual & Domestic Violence

Talking points for op-eds and letters to the editor:

- *Senators should support a Senate bill substantially similar to H.R.1585, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019, which passed the House with strong bipartisan support. We cannot go backwards, nor can we maintain the status quo. Lives are at stake.*
- VAWA's authorization lapsed in mid-February, and it needs to be reauthorized. During the reauthorization process, funding is still going out to the field.
- The Senate bill must:
 - Maintain vital protections for all survivors;
 - Invest in prevention;
 - End impunity for non-Native perpetrators of sexual assault, child abuse co-occurring with domestic violence, stalking, sex trafficking, and assaults on tribal law enforcement officers on tribal lands;
 - Improve access to safe housing and economic independence;
 - Protect victims of dating violence and stalking from perpetrators with firearms;
 - Improve the healthcare system's and workplace responses to the four crimes; and
 - Improve enforcement of court-ordered firearm relinquishment.
- While domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking ("the four crimes") have decreased significantly since 1994 when VAWA was first passed, rates of violence are still far too high:
 - One in five women and one in 59 men are raped in their lifetimes;
 - One in four women and one in seven men experience severe physical abuse by an intimate partner in their lifetimes;
 - One in six women and one in 19 men experience stalking in their lifetimes;
 - A woman is murdered by a male intimate partner with a gun every 16 hours;
- Maintaining the status quo is not acceptable, nor is rolling back vital protections for all survivors
- What VAWA does:
 - Provides critical legal protections to all survivors.

- Funds services including crisis intervention, domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy, shelter services, legal services and advocacy, housing for survivors, community-based interventions;
- Provides grants to transform law enforcement's and the legal system's response to the four crimes by bringing together victim service organizations, law enforcement, community-based organizations, prosecutors, judges, and other stakeholders to develop coordinated community responses;
- Funds population-specific programming to meet the needs of communities of color, older adults, rural communities, people with disabilities, young adults, LGBTQ people, and others;
- VAWA provides a strong American response to the four crimes.
 - VAWA has strengthened victims' involvement in the criminal legal system, including their likelihood of reaching out for help.
 - VAWA-funded prevention programming is proven to reduce sexual violence.
 - Between 2014 and 2016, VAWA funding provided more than one million victim services for survivors of the four crimes, including almost 2 million shelter nights, 600,000 hotline calls, victim advocacy for almost 300,000 unique individuals, and legal services for almost 100,000 survivors. Every six months in that period, VAWA funding served an average of 112,000 primary survivors and their children.
 - VAWA has ended impunity for domestic abusers who prey on Native women on tribal lands.
 - VAWA protects diverse survivors, including LGBTQ survivors, older adult survivors, survivors with disabilities, immigrant survivors, Native survivors, and others.