THE FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES IMPROVEMENT ACT (FVPSA) (S.1275/H.R. 2119)

BACKGROUND

- Domestic violence occurs across all races, ages, classes, and ethnic backgrounds, but at disparate rates and with disproportionate impacts for women of color and other marginalized communities.
  - 1 in 3 women will experience domestic violence, and more than 3 women are murdered by their partners each day.\(^1\)
  - Nearly 30% of women in the U.S. have experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner and reported experiencing being fearful or concerned for their safety or having PTSD symptoms or injuries; contacting a crisis hotline; needing health care, housing services, victim’s advocate services, or legal services; missing at least one day of work; or other impacts as a result.\(^ii\)
  - 54% of multi-racial women, 46% of American Indian / Alaska Native women, 43% of Black women, 37% of Latinas, 36% of White women and 20% percent of Asian or Pacific Islander women have been the victim of intimate partner violence.\(^iii\)

- Between 21% and 60% of survivors of intimate partner violence lose their jobs for reasons related to their abuse.\(^iv\)

- Approximately 50% of women who are homeless report that intimate partner violence was the immediate cause of their homelessness, and over 92% of homeless mothers have experienced severe physical and/or sexual abuse during their lifetime.\(^v\)

- Approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence each year, and nearly half of the residents in domestic violence shelters supported by FVPSA are children.\(^vi\)

WHAT THE FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES ACT (FVPSA) DOES

FVPSA has been instrumental in preventing and responding to gender-based violence. Since its initial authorization in 1984, FVPSA has:
• Created the first and only federal funding stream dedicated to supporting community-based violence programs and shelters, directly addressing the housing, child care, community support, transportation, and other barriers survivors face in gaining access to safety and resources.
• Significantly improved domestic violence prevention efforts and increased public awareness about the prevalence of domestic violence, dating violence, and family violence.
• Ensured that survivors of gender-based violence from underserved communities have gained access to the same life-saving and life-changing assistance and resources as other survivors.
• Developed trauma-informed best practices for children and youth exposed to domestic violence.

THE FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2021 WOULD:

• Continue support to prevent and respond to domestic and dating violence.
• Meaningfully invest in prevention by bringing evidence-informed, community-based prevention initiatives to more communities across the country.
• Create a new grant program for underserved populations, including youth, disabled, immigrants, and other marginalized populations.
• Recognize the diverse needs of survivors by strengthening and creating programs to address culturally-specific needs of survivors in states, territories and Tribes.
• Strengthen the capacity for Indian Tribes to respond to domestic violence in their communities.
• Enhance access to the services provided by the National Domestic Violence Hotline for underrepresented populations including American Indian, Alaskan Native, and deaf survivors.
• Update program and service definitions to ensure all survivors have access to services and to increase consistency in program guidance across the field.

Please support survivors of gender-based violence by supporting the Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act of 2021 (S.1275/H.R. 2119)

ii Id.

iii Id.

