

## **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.<sup>i</sup>
  - **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.<sup>ii</sup>
  - 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.<sup>iii</sup>
- Between 21% and 60% of **survivors of intimate partner violence lose their jobs** for reasons related to their abuse.<sup>iv</sup>
- 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.<sup>v</sup>
- 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.<sup>vi</sup>

### **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)**

# YWCA IS ON A MISSION

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**

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<sup>i</sup> Black, M.C. et al. (2011). “The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.” Retrieved from [https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs\\_report2010-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf).

<sup>ii</sup> Id.

<sup>iii</sup> Id.

<sup>iv</sup> Emily F. Rothman et al. (2007). “How employment helps female victims of intimate partner violence: A qualitative study.” *Journal of Occupational Health Psychology*. 12(2). Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/1076-8998.12.2.136>.

<sup>v</sup> Pressing Issues Facing Families Who Are Homeless. (2013). American Institutes for Research. Retrieved from <http://online.fliphtml5.com/xsgw/iqjt/>.

<sup>vi</sup> Family and Youth Services Bureau. (May 3, 2012). “Expanding Services for Children and Youth Exposed to Domestic Violence Fact Sheet.” Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/resource/expanding-services-fs>.