

Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act of 2021 (H.R. 2119)

The *Family Violence Prevention and Services Act* (FVPSA) was the first federal law to provide resources for survivors of domestic violence. Almost 40 years later, FVPSA is still the primary source of federal funding for domestic violence shelters in the country. The [Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act of 2021](#), (FVPSA) is a comprehensive reauthorization of this critical law that will enhance and refocus federal investment to address intimate partner violence (IPV).

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has increased the risk for intimate partner violence and disrupted services that offer protection and support to survivors. As a result, an already quiet crisis has become even harder to both track and address. According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), about one in four women and nearly one in ten men have reported experiencing some form of IPV during their lifetime. Yet, according to the [National Network to End Domestic Violence](#), in just one day in 2020, domestic violence programs were unable to meet 11,047 requests from survivors of domestic violence for shelter and/or supportive services. This is an increase of almost 2,000 requests (almost 18 percent) in just two years.

Investing federal funds to end IPV is not only the right thing to do, but the smart thing to do. Estimates have shown the [lifetime economic cost](#) associated with medical services for IPV-related injuries, lost productivity from paid work, criminal justice and other costs, was \$3.6 trillion. The cost of IPV over a victim's lifetime was \$103,767 for women and \$23,414 for men.

The Problem: FVPSA, which is the central pillar in fighting against IPV, has not been reauthorized since 2010, leaving programs underfunded and outdated.

- The Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA) prevention program received less than three percent of the total FVPSA funding in fiscal year 2021, leaving 40 states without access to federal prevention dollars.
- COVID-19 has increased the risk of IPV and disrupted services that offer resources and support.
- Communities of color, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ individuals experience disproportionate rates of IPV but face significant barriers to accessing services.
- While half of American Indian/Alaska Native individuals have experienced IPV, tribal communities are ineligible for FVPSA coalition funding and do not receive equitable funding compared to states.

The Solution: Congress must modernize and adequately fund FVPSA to stop IPV from happening in the first place, and to ensure that survivors – particularly in underserved communities – get the resources they need. Ending IPV makes our communities healthier, safer, and provides families economic security they need. Reauthorizing FVPSA will:

- Shift investments to increase prevention efforts, therefore reducing the rate of intimate partner violence and decreasing the funding needs for support services;
- Increase dedicated resources for over-represented and underserved populations, including communities of color, Tribal communities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and people with disabilities; and
- Ensure survivors can receive culturally appropriate, accessible services.

The [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) is open 24/7, call 800-799-SAFE (7233) or text "START" to 88788.