

600 Grant Street, Suite 750  
Denver, CO 80203  
303-839-1852 **ofc**  
303-831-9251 **fax**



1140 3rd St. NE, 2nd floor  
Washington, D.C. 20002  
202-714-7662 **ofc**

March 8, 2021

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee  
US House of Representatives  
2426 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick  
US House of Representatives  
271 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
US House of Representatives  
2123 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Jackson Lee, Representative Fitzpatrick, and Chairman Nadler,

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) applauds you for introducing the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is one of the three pillars of the Federal response to domestic violence. First passed in 1994 under the leadership of then-Senator Biden, VAWA has been reauthorized three times since then, most recently in 2013. VAWA's authorization lapsed in 2018.

Every reauthorization included critical updates to enhance America's response to domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence. These enhancements reflect the evolution of our understanding of the dynamics of violence and the needs of impacted communities. The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021 is the successor bill to these previous reauthorizations and is a slightly updated version of the H.R.1585/S.2843, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019, which passed the House of Representatives with strong bipartisan support before dying in the Senate.

Like its predecessor, the updated 2021 bill invests in prevention; keeps guns out of the hands of adjudicated dating abusers and stalkers; promotes survivors' economic stability; ends impunity for non-Natives who commit gender-based violence on Tribal lands by expanding special tribal criminal jurisdiction beyond domestic violence; and increases survivors' access to safe housing. The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021 also recognizes the disparate impact of gender-based violence on communities of color due to systemic racism and increases funding for culturally specific organizations serving these communities. The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021 expands VAWA's life-saving provisions to increase access to safety and justice for all survivors.

It is particularly critical to reauthorize and improve VAWA as we continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. In a [recent survey](#) of domestic violence programs, 84% reported that intimate partner violence has increased in their community during the pandemic. Fifty percent reported the use of firearms against intimate partners has increased, and one-third reported intimate partner homicides have increased in their communities. The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021 responds to the needs of survivors and supports the programs that serve them.

We thank you, again, for your leadership, and we urge the House to pass the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021 as a matter of utmost urgency.

Sincerely,

600 Grant Street, Suite 750  
Denver, CO 80203  
303-839-1852 **ofc**  
303-831-9251 **fax**



1140 3rd St. NE, 2nd floor  
Washington, D.C. 20002  
202-714-7662 **ofc**

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence