THE FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES IMPROVEMENT ACT (FVPSA) (S.2259)

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.²
  - 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.³
- Between 21 and 60% of survivors of intimate partner violence lose their jobs for reasons related to their abuse.⁴
- 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.⁵
- 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.⁶

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 2019 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.

• **Update funding authorization level by over 40%** to better reflect actual need for services and support on the ground in states, local communities, territories, and Tribes.

• **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 2019 (S.2559)

Id.

Id.

