

## THE FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES ACT (FVPSA) (S.2784/ H.R.6014)

### 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**.
  - **One in three women will experience domestic violence**, and more than three women are murdered by their partners each day.<sup>i</sup>
  - **Nearly 30 percent of women** in the US have experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner and reported at least one impact related to experiencing these or other forms of violence behavior in the relationship (such as being fearful or concerned for their safety, having PTSD symptoms or injuries; contacting a crisis hotline; needing health care, housing services, victim's advocate services, or legal services; or missing at least one day of work.
  - Fifty-four percent of multi-racial women, 46 percent of American Indian / Alaska Native women, 43 percent of Black women, 37 percent of Latinas, 36 percent of White women, and 20 percent of Asian or Pacific Islander women have been the victim of intimate partner violence<sup>ii</sup>.
- Between 21 and 60 percent of **survivors of intimate partner violence lose their jobs** for reasons related to their abuse.<sup>iii</sup>
- Approximately **50 percent of women who are homeless report that intimate partner violence was the immediate cause** of their homelessness, and over 92 percent of homeless mothers have experienced severe physical and/or sexual abuse during their lifetime.<sup>iv</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>v</sup>

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

- Provides funding for shelter and supportive services for victims of family, domestic, and dating violence, and for individuals at risk of victimization.
- Provides funding for the National Domestic Violence Hotline, a 24-hour, national, toll-free hotline that provides information, assistance, and referrals to adult and youth victims of family, domestic, and dating violence, and to persons affected by this violence.
- Supports state domestic violence coalitions to establish, operate, and maintain community violence prevention and education programs.

- Enables domestic violence coalitions and national and specialized resource centers to provide specialized technical assistance to enable local domestic violence programs to address emerging issues, such as trauma-informed care and culturally-specific domestic violence services.
- Supports a children’s program to allow twelve communities that range from Texas to Alaska and Maine to California to receive targeted training and funding to meet the needs of children exposed to domestic violence.

## PLEASE SUPPORT REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES ACT

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act has been instrumental in preventing and responding to gender-based violence. Since its initial authorization in 1984 and subsequent reauthorizations, FVPSA has:

- Created the first and only federal funding stream dedicated to supporting community-based domestic violence programs and shelters, thereby directly addressing the childcare, housing, community support, transportation, and other barriers that survivors of gender-based violence face in accessing 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.

## Please support survivors of gender-based violence by supporting the reauthorization of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.

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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 24 January 2017 from [https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs\\_report2010-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf). [hereinafter NISVS:2010]

<sup>ii</sup> Id.

<sup>iii</sup> Emily F. Rothman et al. How employment helps female victims of intimate partner violence: A qualitative study. *Journal of Occupational Health Psychology*. (2007). 12(2). Retrieved 16 January 2017 from <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/1076-8998.12.2.136>.

<sup>iv</sup> Pressing Issues Facing Families Who Are Homeless. (2013). American Institutes for Research. Retrieved 16 January 2017 from <http://online.fliphtml5.com/xsgw/iqjt/>.

<sup>v</sup> Family and Youth Services Bureau. “Expanding Services for Children and Youth Exposed to Domestic Violence Fact Sheet.” Department of Health and Human Services (May 3, 2012). Retrieved 9 May 2018 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/resource/expanding-services-fs>.