



National Alliance to  
End Sexual Violence

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NAESV Applauds House Introduction of Violence Against Women Act**

Last evening, Representatives Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18), Jerrold Nadler (D-NY-10), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) introduced the bipartisan Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021 (VAWA). National Alliance to End Sexual Violence President Monika Johnson Hostler said:

“Each reauthorization of VAWA gives us the opportunity to evolve our national response to gender-based violence. The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021 introduced by Representatives Jackson Lee, Nadler and Fitzpatrick meets that challenge. The legislation includes investments in the nation’s flagship sexual assault survivor services and prevention programs, the Sexual Assault Services Program and Rape Prevention & Education Program, prioritizes services and responses to vulnerable survivors and communities, and ensures the involvement of state sexual assault coalitions in prevention work. The national network of state and local advocates wholeheartedly supports this legislation and urges its swift passage in both the House and Senate.”

NAESV additionally celebrates provisions in the legislation that affirm tribes’ sovereignty to prosecute non-native offenders of sexual assault, child abuse, trafficking and stalking and important protections for survivors of sexual assault in public housing—a critical part of the safety net for survivors.

According to the [National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey](#), one in five women has been the victim of rape or attempted rape. Nearly one in two women has experienced some form of sexual violence and one in five men has experienced a form of sexual violence other than rape in their lifetime. The study confirmed that the impacts on society are enormous. Over 80% of women who were victimized experienced significant short and long-term impacts related to the violence such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), injury (42%) and missed time at work or school (28%). The CDC report shows that most rape and partner violence is experienced before the age of 24, highlighting the importance of preventing this violence before it occurs.

High profile cases of sexual assault on campuses, our military bases, military academies, and professional sports have resulted in unprecedented media attention. This has also resulted in a

tremendous increase in sexual assault survivors seeking assistance from local rape crisis centers and educators as well as community organizations requesting prevention and training services. The media attention also points to the need for comprehensive community responses to sexual violence. According to data from a [2020 survey conducted by NAESV](#), 62% of local sexual assault programs have a waiting list, sometimes months long, for counseling services and 35% lack a full time sexual assault therapist on staff.

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*The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence is the voice in Washington for the 56 state and territorial sexual assault coalitions and 1500 rape crisis centers working to end sexual violence and support survivors.*