



**National Alliance to  
End Sexual Violence**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE APPLAUDS SIGNING OF THE VOCA FIX**

The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (NAESV) applauds the passage of The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA Fix) to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021 which was signed into law on Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. After extensive federal, state, and local advocacy, the Senate passed the VOCA Fix Act in a strong bipartisan way with a vote of 100 to 0. The House overwhelmingly passed the VOCA Fix in March.

The Victims of Crime Act established the Crime Victims Fund (CVF), which is a major source of critical funding for victim services throughout the country. Deposits into the CVF have dropped dramatically in the last several years, leading to a substantial cut in VOCA victim assistance grants. VOCA Fix will prevent devastating cuts to federal funding for victim service programs by amending the law to allow deposit penalties and fines from non-prosecution and deferred prosecution agreements into the CVF.

“Over one thousand rape crisis centers rely on VOCA funds to provide direct services like crisis intervention, counseling, and court accompaniment to victims of sexual assault,” said NAESV President Monika Johnson Hostler. “The VOCA Fix will have an immediate and positive impact on the lives of sexual assault survivors and will save lives. I commend the work of local and statewide advocates, along with the national VOCA stakeholder coalition, that made passage of this law possible.”

NAESV was honored to attend the signing ceremony with President Biden, Vice President Harris, Members of Congress and their dedicated staff along with members of the stakeholder community. We are incredibly grateful to the bill’s lead sponsors, Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), John Cornyn (R-TX), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), as well as Representatives Jerry Nadler (D-NY), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX),

Ann Wagner (R-MO), Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA), Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), Debbie Dingell (D-MI), and John Moolenaar (R-MI), for their leadership and commitment to lifesaving services for victims of crime.

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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.*