



National Alliance to
End Sexual Violence

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NAESV Applauds Landmark Bipartisan Agreement to Address Military Sexual Assault in the National Defense Authorization Act

The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence welcomed the report of the Department of Defense Internal Review Commission (IRC) on Sexual Assault in the Military along with the visionary leadership of President Biden and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin. Now, the National Defense Reauthorization Act (NDAA) agreement reached by Congress enshrines some of the major recommendations of the IRC ensuring that sexual assault and other major crimes are prosecuted by attorneys with specialized expertise independent from the chain of command. The agreement also establishes sexual harassment as a specific offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

NAESV President, Monika Johnson Hostler, said:

“Tragically, Vanessa Guillen lost her life because the military failed to take the problem of sexual violence seriously enough. She deserved better, and we believe these policies will mean survivors are more likely to be protected, supported, and receive justice. This is a historic victory.”

We are grateful to congressional leaders including Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA-14) and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) for their efforts to advocate for sexual assault survivors in the halls of power.

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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.