



National Alliance to
End Sexual Violence

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NAESV Cheers Signing of Omnibus Appropriations Bill
Reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act**

The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (NAESV) applauds the House and Senate passage of the FY 2022 Omnibus Appropriations Act signed into law by President Biden today which includes the strong, bipartisan Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act (VAWA). In addition to strong provisions to ensure survivors' access to healing services and programs to prevent sexual violence, the bill increases the funding for the Sexual Assault Services Program, Rape Prevention and Education Program, and Culturally Specific Services Program.

NAESV President, Monika Johnson Hostler:

"This moment, a day to truly celebrate, is the culmination of the work of so many survivors, advocates, policy leaders, and congressional staff and has been almost 10 years in the making. VAWA is an essential tool in our work to address and end gender-based violence, and we are thrilled to know President Biden, longtime champion of VAWA, signed this strong, bipartisan bill into law today. We're grateful to bill sponsors Senators Feinstein, Ernst, Durbin and Murkowski and all of the VAWA co-sponsors and supporters who've made this day a reality."

Among many important and lifesaving [advancements](#), this legislation:

- Significantly increases the authorization of several VAWA programs including the Sexual Assault Services Program, Rape Prevention & Education Program, Rural Program, Culturally Specific Services Program, and the Campus Grants Program.
- Reaffirms the sovereignty of tribes to hold non-Indian offenders of sexual violence accountable on tribal lands.
- Expands the availability of sexual assault forensic examinations for survivors of sexual assault some of whom currently must drive hours to reach the nearest services.
- Addresses campus sexual assault including requiring climate survey.

- Allows for direct payments to survivors for their emergency needs through the Sexual Assault Services Program.
- Invests in restorative practices for survivors looking for additional pathways for accountability.
- Closes the law enforcement consent loophole to better address sexual misconduct by law enforcement

We now look forward to engaging with state and local advocates on the important work of implementing this vital legislation.

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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.