



National Alliance to  
End Sexual Violence

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **NAESV Alarmed House Appropriations Bill Eliminates Rape Prevention & Education Program**

Today, the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee marked up and passed its FY 25 spending [bill](#) eliminating the Rape Prevention & Education Program. NAESV President & CEO Monika Johnson Hostler stated:

“We are alarmed that House appropriators have proposed eliminating the Rape Prevention & Education Program (RPE) in their FY 25 spending bill. RPE has benefited from broad bipartisan support since this program was first authorized in the Violence Against Women Act of 1994. RPE provides the backbone of sexual violence prevention in our country. Eliminating this program will have devastating impacts on states, communities, young people, families, rape crisis centers, and survivors.”

RPE has been a major priority for NAESV, state sexual assault coalitions, and rape crisis centers for many years now. In addition to eliminating RPE, NAESV has broader concerns about the legislation including a policy rider preventing the implementation of the final Title IX rule leaving student victims of harassment without necessary protections and eliminating the Women’s Bureau at the Department of Labor tasked with addressing gender-based violence and harassment in the workplace. NAESV will continue working with Congress toward a final appropriations package that adequately supports prevention and services to address sexual assault.

#### [Background on RPE:](#)

RPE formula grants, administered by the CDC Injury Center, provide essential funding to states and territories to support rape prevention and education programs conducted by rape crisis centers, state sexual assault coalitions, and other public and private nonprofit entities.

A 2023 survey by the NAESV revealed that 70% of programs saw an increased demand for services while 2/3 of programs reporting reduced service hours said this fell in the areas of public education/prevention.

The RPE program prepares everyday people to become actively engaged and involved in the fight against sexual violence and creating safer communities by:

- Engaging boys and men as partners;
- Supporting multidisciplinary research collaborations;
- Fostering cross-cultural approaches to prevention; and
- Promoting healthy, non-violent social norms, attitudes, and policies.

According to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey 1 in 5 women were victim of a completed or attempted rape at some point in their lifetime. The societal costs of sexual violence are incredibly high including medical & mental health care, law enforcement response, & lost productivity. 2017 research sets the lifetime economic burden of rape at \$122,000 per victim and reveals a strong link between sexual violence and chronic disease.

We know RPE is working. A 2016 study conducted in 26 Kentucky high schools over 5 years and published in American Journal of Preventive Medicine found that an RPE-funded bystander intervention program decreased not only sexual violence perpetration but also other forms of interpersonal violence and victimization.

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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.*