

# ACTION ALERT

Office of Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity  
Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

May 1, 2019

## ISSUE: THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) ran out of authorization Oct. 1, 2018, although funding for its many critical programs continues. However, VAWA's future is precarious, subject to the whims of government shutdowns and continuing resolutions. The programs, services and lives of survivors across the country are in limbo. VAWA 2019 needs to be passed immediately, guaranteeing five more years of help and hope for survivors of sexual, domestic and dating violence and stalking.

Now that H.R. 1585 has passed in the House, it is absolutely crucial that every single Senator works to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act IMMEDIATELY. These additions include gun safety measures to decrease firearm-related domestic homicides, protecting families living in federal housing from evictions when abusers act violently, and addressing the reality that Native women and children endure domestic and sexual violence at rates higher than the national average by providing legal avenues for holding non-Native abusers and predators accountable. VAWA has had a profound impact on survivors' lives by providing funding for programs and services to support close to 50,000 survivors and provide over a million victim services between 2014 and 2016 alone.

**ACTION:** Please call your Senators at 202-224-3121 and urge them to support the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

### Suggested Message:

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019 (VAWA) is an important piece of legislation that provides tens of thousands of survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their families with critical resources. It is imperative that you reauthorize VAWA with all proposed improvements and with NO amendments that would exclude certain groups of providers and survivors as they seek justice, healing and safety. Survivors' lives depend on VAWA.

**PRAYER:**

God of shelter, give refuge to those who suffer violence and abuse in unsafe homes. Bring your peace. God of deliverance, release those who are enslaved and controlled by abusers, and give them sanctuary. Bring your freedom. God of compassion, defend the abused and the innocents who witness violence. Bring your hope.

God of salvation, surround, guide and heal those who abuse and bully others.

Bring your light. God of perfect love, move us toward holiness in our relationships with you, with one another and with creation. Bring your assurance.

God of shelter and peace, deliverance and freedom, compassion and hope, salvation and light, perfect love and assurance, hear our prayer. Amen.