

Reauthorize FVPSA with Critical Support for Tribal Domestic Violence Programs

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act (FVPSA) is the primary federal grant program dedicated to supporting victims of sexual and domestic violence and their children. FVPSA includes funding for shelters, emergency response hotlines, and training and prevention efforts, as well as children's services and coalitions. This bill is especially significant for tribal communities, which deal with domestic and sexual violence at unparalleled rates and rely on these essential services.

FVPSA was first authorized in 1984 and last reauthorized in 2010. Meanwhile, the need for victim services in tribal communities has continued to grow. In March 2021, H.R. 2119 was introduced in the House by Reps. Lucy McBath (GA-6), Gwen Moore (WI-4), John Katko (NY-24), and Don Young (AK). In April 2021, S. 1275 was introduced in the Senate by Sens. Bob Casey (PA) and Lisa Murkowski (AK).

In October, the House voted 228-200 to pass H.R. 2119 with bipartisan support. In July, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee marked up S. 1275. The bill advanced out of committee and now awaits full Senate consideration.

A FVPSA reauthorization bill must include these four essential tribal provisions (included in S. 1275 and H.R. 2119):

- Strengthen the ability for tribes to exercise sovereignty by increasing the tribal set-aside from 10% to 12.5%. This will allow tribes to better respond to domestic violence in their communities.
- Authorize permanent, separate funding for a National Indian Domestic Violence Hotline offering culturally-appropriate support for Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.
- Authorize funding for an Alaska Native Tribal Resource Center on Domestic Violence and a Native Hawaiian Resource Center on Domestic Violence.
- Authorize formula funding for the Tribal Domestic Violence Coalitions, which provide tribes and tribal organizations with technical assistance and training on developing responses to domestic violence.

Reauthorize FVPSA with enhanced tribal provisions.

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