



SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER
Rise Up AND Act for Justice

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It's Up to the Senate – Co-Sponsor & Pass The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act

Statement by Fran Eskin-Royer

Executive Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

The Senate needs a win; America needs a win; women need a win. The National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd calls on all our U.S. Senators to co-sponsor the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2022 and immediately pass it.

VAWA was groundbreaking legislation 28 years ago, and it remains critical to this day. We have witnessed during our long two years and counting of the Covid pandemic that domestic violence has increased and opportunities to escape have narrowed.

We thank VAWA's bipartisan sponsors, Senators Dick Durbin, Joni Ernst, Dianne Feinstein and Lisa Murkowski for crafting this reauthorization including key enhancements that would ensure predators who prey on American Indian women and children can be held accountable and would prohibit future individuals from possessing or purchasing firearms if they have a protective order against them and are convicted of a domestic violence crime.

Among many more elements of the bill, it also would strengthen rape prevention, education efforts and services, and would expand access to emergency housing support for survivors.

The National Advocacy Center reflects the spirituality, history and mission of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (better known as the Sisters of the Good Shepherd). The sisters and their agencies work in solidarity with the disenfranchised – particularly families, women and children – who often are forgotten, left-behind or dismissed. This is where evil lurks. We see this in the lands and peoples we have shunned, such as in the high numbers of missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Native women. Many have endured shocking levels of violence, including sexual abuse and, in some cases, trafficking. We seek justice for these women and children and for all those who are abused physically or emotionally.

VAWA provides a pathway to justice and a win for us all.

[The National Advocacy Center](https://www.nac4justice.org/) educates and advocates on social justice issues for the transformation of society to the benefit of all people reflecting the spirituality, history and mission of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. NAC advocates at the Federal level for people living in poverty, immigrants, survivors of human trafficking, survivors of domestic abuse, and other vulnerable populations.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd was founded in France in 1835 and are in 70 countries on 5 continents and have had a presence in the United States for over 175 years. With a presence in 22 states and 1 U. S. Territory, the Sisters and their Lay Mission Partners have dedicated themselves to serving girls, women and families who experience poverty, exploitation, vulnerability and marginalization.

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