Federal & State Sexual Violence Policy
Beyond the Breakthrough
NSAC
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RALIANCE is a national partnership dedicated to ending sexual violence in one generation.

NSVRC, NAESV, CALCASA-Prevent Connect
The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence is the voice in Washington for the 56 state and territorial coalitions and 1300 rape crisis centers working in their communities to end sexual violence and support survivors.
We are advocates, experts, and lawyers who fight for gender justice, taking on issues that are central to the lives of women and girls. We drive change in the courts, in public policy, and in our society, especially for women facing multiple forms of discrimination.
Our resolve to stand with all survivors is stronger than ever. Nothing can hold back our stories, our power, our advocacy. #Kavanaugh confirmation is a deeply disappointing setback, & we are outraged at Senate leadership. But we won’t go back, & we won’t give up. #BelieveSurvivors
Congressional Briefing April 3: The Work of Rape Crisis Centers
Community Leaders Addressing & Ending Sexual Violence
Programs aimed at preventing and responding to sexual assault such as the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP), Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), and the Rape Prevention & Education Program (RPE) have been incredibly successful.

The demand for both services and prevention has skyrocketed with sexual violence part of the national conversation every day.

According to a 2018 survey by NAESV, over half of rape crisis centers have a waiting list for counseling & 40% have a waiting list of 30 days or more for prevention programs.
Appropriations Advocacy

Committee Staff Meetings
Coalition/Grassroots Advocacy
Member Requests
Field Letter
Written testimony
Challenge: Need New Budget Deal

• Discretionary spending caps (i.e., Sequestration) back in play for FY 20.
• Need new budget deal to raise discretionary spending caps to ensure drastic spending cuts do not occur.
• House bills are done, but Senate is waiting on a budget deal.
• Another budget crisis may be looming.
FY 19 $3.5 billion
FY 18 $4.4 billion
FY 20 President’s budget $2.3 billion
FY 20 advocates’ ask: $2.6 billion

FY 20 House: $2.8 with major transfers
FY 19 $37.5 million
FY 18 $35 million
FY 20 President’s budget $35 million
FY 20 advocates’ ask: $50 million

FY 20 House: $50
FY 19 $49.4 million
FY 18 $49.4 million
FY 20 President’s budget: level funding
FY 20 advocates’ ask: $75 million

FY 20 House: $60 (after floor amendment increasing from 54.4 to 60)
VAWA 2019

Key issues

- NO ROLLBACKS
- Maintain current resources and protections
- Housing
- Prevention
- Tribal
- Alternative approaches to CJ
- Firearms
- Economic justice
Bipartisan HR 1585 passed on April 4 including all of the advocates’ major priorities.
Working with key offices – leadership, Judiciary (Feinstein and Graham) and Senator Ernst

Working from HR 1585

Bipartisan process

Senator Cornyn’s floor speeches

Election dynamics
Areas of disagreement

- Non-discrimination
- Native American protections
- Housing protections
- Firearms
Bringing an End to Harassment by Enhancing Accountability and Rejecting Discrimination in the Workplace Act (BE HEARD in the Workplace Act)

The first comprehensive federal proposal to address workplace harassment in the wake of #MeToo
• Protecting more workers
• Removing barriers to access to justice
• Promoting transparency and accountability
• Funding and requiring prevention
• Increasing access to legal services for workers in low-wage jobs
Other Legislation & Major Advocacy Efforts

- SASCA (Survivors’ Access to Supportive Care Act)
- Equality Act
- Debbie Smith Reauthorization
- CAPTA (Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act)
- SAAM Resolutions
- Closing Law Enforcement Consent Loophole
- VOCA Advocacy
- Title IX NPRM
Advocacy Efforts and Issues in States

- Workplace Harassment
- Prevention/Sex Education/Consent
- Campus/Rights of students
- Housing Protections
- Marriage Age
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Responses to trafficking
- Survivor Rights
- Reproductive Rights
In January of this year, over 300 state legislators representing 40 states and D.C. signed a letter of commitment to strengthen protections against sexual harassment and violence in at least 20 states by 2020.

THANK LEGISLATORS IN THESE STATES TODAY

Legislators in 40 states and D.C. have pledged to move protections against sexual harassment forward by 2020.
Colorado HB19-1032: Requires public schools that offer comprehensive human sexuality education teach about consent; factually accurate info; hope to make required in the future

Oklahoma SB926: Consent Education in Sex Education: Requires that information about consent shall be included in any sex education class or program that discusses sexual behavior, abstinence only programs included.

Virginia SB 2005: Requires any high school family life education curriculum offered by a local school division to incorporate age-appropriate elements of effective and evidence-based programs on the law and meaning of consent.
• **Texas:** Several bills. Authorizes Higher Ed Coordinating Board to investigate complaints of statutory violations; Retaliation protections; Requires institutions to report aggregate data on the complaints received, how many were investigated, how many dismissed, etc.

• **Colorado:** Preponderance Standard; Confidentiality for campus advocates; Prohibited right to active counsel.

• Bad bills defeated: Missouri, Virginia
Civil Statute of Limitations

- Vermont
- Rhode Island
- New Jersey

VICTORY!

CIVIL STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS EXPANDED

FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN NEW JERSEY!
Housing Rights
Colorado
Missouri
Vermont
Lease termination
Lock Changes
Marriage Age

• Idaho

• Pennsylvania
State abortion restrictions:
• **Louisiana** passed a fetal heartbeat law in May. ([Effective](#) if a judge lifts the block in the Mississippi suit.)
• **Alabama** passed a near total ban on abortion. ([Effective November 2019.](#))
• **Ohio** passed a fetal heartbeat law. It was [temporarily blocked](#) by a judge in early July.
• **Kentucky** passed a fetal heartbeat law. It's been [temporarily blocked](#) by a judge.
• **Mississippi** passed a fetal heartbeat law. It's been [temporarily blocked](#) by a judge.
• **Georgia** passed a fetal heartbeat law. ([Effective January 2020.](#))
• **Utah** voted to limit abortions to the middle of the second trimester. ([Currently effective as of May 14](#))
• **Arkansas** voted to limit abortions to the middle of the second trimester. ([Currently effective.](#))
• **Missouri** signed into law a ban on abortions at 8 weeks of pregnancy. ([Effective August 2019.](#) [Axios July 2019](#))
Abortion restrictions and sexual violence are rooted in the same sexism. @NPWF & @endsxlvioence are joining together during #SAAM to speak out against efforts to control our bodies, lives, and futures. Learn more: nationalpartnership.org/standtogether

We're standing together to take back our power.
Criminal Justice

Texas: Created a misdemeanor crime

Kentucky: Training requirements for law enforcement and emergency responders
Crimes related to trafficking victimization

- Nevada
- Idaho
- Missouri

• Photo credit: Christian Science Monitor of Cyntoia Brown
Forensic Exam (Backlog, Access, Testing Registry)

- Texas: Access/Telehealth
- Idaho: Testing all kits
- Washington: Access/Required training on victim notification
Sexual Assault Survivors’ Bill of Rights

• West Virginia
• Nevada
• Washington
Marsy’s Law
Thank you!

• Need one-on-one support on legislation?
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