

# VAWA 2021

## What It Means For You

The National Center for Victims of Crime is a nonpartisan national advocacy organization that helps victims and survivors of crime rebuild their lives.

### What Is the Violence Against Women Act?

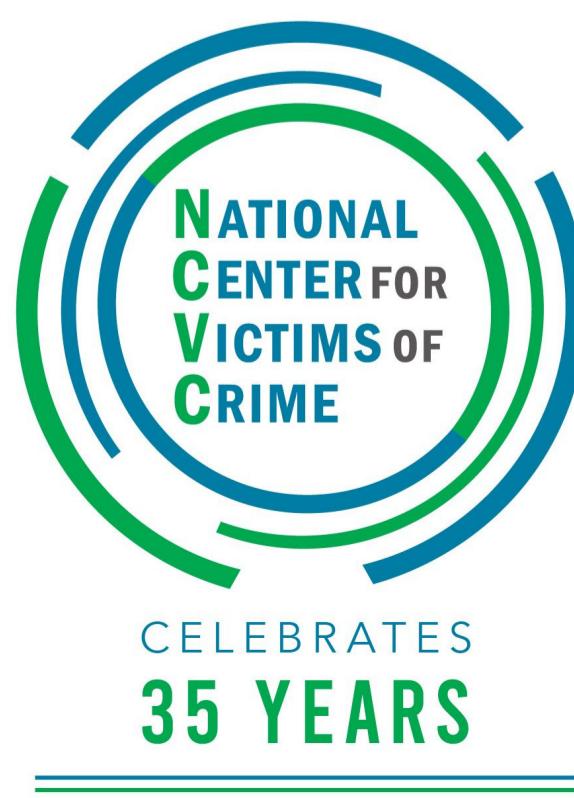
The first Violence Against Women Act passed in 1994. VAWA works to make sure that victims receive the support they need, and that offenders are held accountable. We also recognize the ways that it can be improved to include immigrant survivors, more protections for tribal communities, and restorative justice options.

### What's New About this Re-Authorization?

2021 Reauthorization of VAWA, as explained by the National Network to End Domestic Violence:

- Allocates nearly 40 million dollars to be authorized for Culturally Specific Services Programs
- Restores tribal jurisdiction that allows tribes to hold non-native perpetrators of sexual assault, stalking, child abuse, elder abuse, assault against law enforcement officers, and trafficking accountable when they commit crimes on native lands.
- Allows communities to implement alternative justice responses that are focused on victim autonomy, agency, and safety in order to provide resolution and restitution for victims.
- Allows VAWA-funded legal services to provide more comprehensive services to survivors.

The House Bill's reauthorization may differ from the Senate Bill's reauthorization, as is typical of legislation.



# What Does This Re-Authorization Mean to Me, as a Victim Services Provider?

The Violence Against Women Act funds many of the programs and initiatives for crime victim professionals to continue to center the voices and needs of victims especially around domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and sexual assault. These programs give victims and survivors the resources and support that they need to heal and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

## What Does This Re-Authorization Mean for Victims?

- Helps survivors receive economic justice, by helping them access unemployment insurance and helps to clarify the definition of economic abuse.
- Closure of legal loopholes in the existing federal domestic violence-related firearm laws.
- Non-Discrimination requirements, so that all victims regardless of their gender identity can receive equal access to services.

## What Does This Re-Authorization Mean for Me, as Someone who Identifies as AI/AN?

The reauthorization promotes sovereignty by empowering Tribal Nations to prosecute non native offenders who perpetrate domestic and sexual crimes against AI/AN women.

Due to jurisdictional complexities and restrictions, this version of reauthorization, if passed, will enhance response and access to justice for Native women whose perpetrators are non-native and may evade prosecution depending on the crime and land status.

### Contact Us:

Contact **VictimConnect** by call, text or chat at 855-484-2846 and visit <https://victimconnect.org/> to access confidential and compassionate support.

Access resources via the **Tribal Resource Tool** at <https://tribalresourcetool.org/>

Track the progress of the Reauthorization Bill here:  
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1620/text>

For any questions or comments, email [info@victimsofcrime.org](mailto:info@victimsofcrime.org).