

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10099

To establish a National Domestic Violence Prevention Action Plan to expand, intensify and coordinate domestic violence prevention programs in the United States of America, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 1, 2024

Ms. WEXTON (for herself and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To establish a National Domestic Violence Prevention Action Plan to expand, intensify and coordinate domestic violence prevention programs in the United States of America, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Domestic Vi-
5 lence Prevention Action Plan”.

6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

7 Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) Domestic violence is a serious public health
2 problem and more than 12 million individuals expe-
3 rience domestic violence in the United States each
4 year.

5 (2) According to the National Intimate Partner
6 and Sexual Violence Survey, in the United States
7 more than 2 in 5 women and nearly 1 in 4 men will
8 experience contact sexual violence, physical violence,
9 and/or stalking by an intimate partner and experi-
10 ence an intimate partner violence related impact in
11 their lifetime, and approximately 1 in 3 women and
12 1 in 4 men experience severe physical violence by an
13 intimate partner in their lifetime.

14 (3) More than half of female homicides were
15 connected to intimate partner violence and in a do-
16 mestic violence situation the presence of a gun in-
17 creases the risk of homicide by 500 percent.

18 (4) While Domestic violence can affect anyone,
19 research indicates that communities of color, individ-
20 uals with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and
21 other marginalized communities can be dispropor-
22 tionately impacted.

23 (5) Domestic violence leads to the loss of nearly
24 8 million days of work each year and costs the
25 United States \$3.6 trillion.

1 (6) The United Nations has urged countries to
2 adopt national action plans to combat gender-based
3 violence and violence against women, including do-
4 mestic violence, and approximately 50 countries, in-
5 cluding Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia,
6 Germany, Spain, and Ireland, have adopted such
7 plans.

8 (7) The United States does not have a national
9 plan of action on domestic violence or gender-based
10 violence, making it a global outlier.

11 (8) While the Violence Against Women Act and
12 Family Violence Prevention and Services Act are the
13 United States landmark pieces of domestic violence
14 legislation and has many of the hallmarks of a na-
15 tional action plan on domestic violence prevention,
16 the United States does not have a whole-of-govern-
17 ment, goal-oriented, community-informed, forward
18 looking national plan of action for domestic violence
19 prevention.

20 (9) The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
21 created the Office on Violence Against Women
22 (OVW) in 1995 to administer financial and technical
23 assistance to communities across the United States
24 that are working to develop and maintain programs,

1 policies, and practices devoted to ending domestic vi-
2 olence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

3 (10) None of the programs administered by the
4 Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) focus
5 solely on prevention of domestic violence.

6 (11) The Family Violence Prevention and Serv-
7 ices Act authorizes three major activities: domestic
8 violence prevention activities through a program
9 known as Domestic Violence Prevention Enhance-
10 ment and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA),
11 the National Domestic Violence Hotline, and domes-
12 tic violence shelters, victims' services, and program
13 support.

14 (12) Since 1996, the Centers for Disease Con-
15 trol and Prevention has awarded Domestic Violence
16 Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through
17 Alliances (DELTA) funding to State Domestic Vi-
18 olence Coalitions (SDVCs) to coordinate specific pre-
19 vention activities. However, only ten states currently
20 benefit from this funding.

21 (13) According to the Centers for Disease Con-
22 trol and Prevention, DELTA focuses on imple-
23 menting three strategies—engage influential adults
24 and peers, create protective environments, and
25 strengthen economic supports for families—with the

1 goal of addressing and decreasing community and
2 societal level risk, identifying factors in communities
3 that may lead to intimate partner violence, and in-
4 creasing protective factors that prevent it.

5 (14) In 1993, the National Resource Center on
6 Domestic Violence was established through the De-
7 partment of Health and Human Services funding to
8 (1) support community awareness and educational
9 efforts of domestic violence programs through the
10 Domestic Violence Awareness Project (DVAP), (2)
11 promote and support the leadership of women of
12 color at the local, state, and national levels through
13 the Women of Color Network, (3) promote holistic
14 programming and policy response through Building
15 Comprehensive Solutions to Domestic Violence, and
16 connect individuals to research on emerging issues
17 related to domestic violence, sexual violence, public
18 policy, and primary prevention through VAWnet.

19 (15) Many Federal agencies address domestic
20 violence by providing formula-based and discre-
21 tionary grants to local, State, and tribal govern-
22 ments, courts, nonprofits organizations, community-
23 based organizations, secondary schools, institutions
24 of higher education, special-issue resource centers
25 and State and tribal coalitions for the purpose of

1 supporting victims and holding perpetrators account-
2 able for their actions associated with domestic vio-
3 lence with a lack of focus on prevention:

4 (A) The Department of Defense admin-
5 isters the congressionally mandated Family Ad-
6 vocacy Program (FAP) which is devoted to pro-
7 viding clinical assessment, supportive services,
8 and treatment in response to domestic violence,
9 as well as, report domestic abuse in military
10 families annually to Congress.

11 (B) The Department of State supports nu-
12 merous programs that address domestic vio-
13 lence globally through its human rights and hu-
14 manitarian activities, including those housed in
15 the Office of Global Women's Issues that sup-
16 ports anti-gender-based violence (GBV) pro-
17 grams and promotes awareness.

18 (C) Through their agency-wide efforts to
19 address gender inequality and gender-based vio-
20 lence, the U.S. Agency for International Devel-
21 opment (USAID) supports programs that aim
22 to prevent and respond to domestic violence
23 globally through its work in development, global
24 health, and humanitarian assistance.

(D) The Indian Country Crimes Unit (ICCU) at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is responsible for developing and implementing strategies, programs, and policies to address identified crimes problems in Indian country, including but not limited to, initiatives related to domestic violence and sex offenses, program management, and support for the Safe Trails Task Force.

16 (F) The Federal Bureau of Investigation
17 (FBI) collects national domestic violence crime
18 statistics, including through the National-Inci-
19 dent Based Reporting System.

(G) The Department of Education administers the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title IV–A Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grants to local education agencies (LEAs) that could be used

1 to support initiatives to address domestic violence
2 and teen dating violence in schools.

3 (H) The Higher Education Act (HEA) requires institutions of higher education (IHE) to include in their annual security report (ASR) a statement of policy regarding the IHE's programs to prevent domestic violence, dating violence, and other related crimes, and procedures that the IHE will follow once an incident of domestic or dating violence has been reported.

11 (I) The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ), funds housing programs for individuals and families who are fleeing or attempting to flee their home due to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as well as, oversees the Domestic Violence Housing Technical Assistance Consortium through the Safe Housing Partnership that provides technical assistance to community providers on housing and domestic violence.

24 (J) U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) at the Department of Home-

1 land Security (DHS) accepts applications and
2 assist survivors of domestic violence in becoming
3 lawful permanent residents through Violence
4 Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petitions.
5

6 (16) According to the National Institutes of
7 Health, responses to domestic violence have focused,
8 to date, primarily on intervention after the problem
9 has already been identified and harm has occurred.
10 However, there are prevention strategies and prevention
11 approaches from the public health field that can
12 serve as models for further development of domestic
13 violence prevention, such as a public health campaign
14 that identifies and addresses the underlying
15 causes of the issues.

16 (17) According to the National Institutes of
17 Health, domestic violence prevention should be addressed along a continuum of possible harm: (1) primary prevention to reduce the incidence of the problem before it occurs; (2) secondary prevention to decrease the prevalence after early signs of the problem; and (3) tertiary prevention to intervene once the problem is already clearly evident and causing harm.
24

1 (18) According to the National Institutes of
2 Health, Primary prevention include school-based
3 programs that teach students about domestic vio-
4 lence and alternative conflict-resolution skills, and
5 public education campaigns to increase awareness of
6 the harms of domestic violence and of services avail-
7 able to victims.

8 (19) According to the National Institutes of
9 Health, Secondary prevention programs could in-
10 clude home visiting for high-risk families and com-
11 munity-based programs on dating violence for ado-
12 lescents referred through child protective services
13 (CPS).

14 (20) According to the National Institutes of
15 Health, tertiary prevention includes the many tar-
16 geted intervention programs already in place.

17 (21) According to the National Institutes of
18 Health, early evaluations of existing prevention pro-
19 grams show promise, but results are still prelimi-
20 nary, and programs remain small, locally based, and
21 scattered throughout the United States.

22 (22) According to the National Institutes of
23 Health, the United States needs a broadly based,
24 comprehensive prevention strategy that is supported
25 by sound research and evaluation, receives adequate

1 public backing, and is based on a policy of zero tol-
2 erance for domestic violence.

3 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION AC-**
4 **TION PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE.**

5 (a) STEERING COMMITTEE.—With the goal of estab-
6 lishing a National Domestic Violence Prevention Action
7 Plan to expand, intensify, and coordinate domestic vio-
8 lence prevention programs and activities in the United
9 States of America, the Department of Health and Human
10 Services shall establish a steering committee which shall
11 create, facilitate the activities, and further the goals of the
12 National Domestic Violence Prevention Action Plan. Such
13 committee shall consist of:

14 (1) The commissioner at the Administration on
15 Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) at the Ad-
16 ministration for Children and Families (ACF) at the
17 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
18 (HHS), who shall serve as Chair.

19 (2) The administrator of the Family Violence
20 Prevention and Services Program at the Department
21 of Health and Human Services, who shall serve as
22 Vice-Chair.

23 (3) The Assistant Secretary for Planning and
24 Evaluation at the Department of Health and
25 Human Services.

1 (4) The administrator of the Office on Violence
2 Against Women at the Department of Justice.

3 (5) The administrator of the Division of Vi-
4 lence Prevention at the Center for Disease Control
5 and Prevention.

6 (6) The administrator of the Division of Injury
7 Prevention at the Center for Disease Control and
8 Prevention.

9 (7) The administrator of the Office of Juvenile
10 Justice and Delinquency Prevention at the Depart-
11 ment of Justice.

12 (8) The administrator of the Office of Victim of
13 Crimes at the Department of Justice.

14 (9) The Under Secretary of Education at the
15 Department of Education.

16 (10) Such other subject matter experts the
17 Chair of the National Domestic Violence Prevention
18 Steering Committee deems necessary for the creation
19 of the functions of the National Domestic Violence
20 Prevention Action Plan.

21 (b) ROLE OF MEMBERSHIP CHAIR.—The Chair of
22 the National Domestic Violence Prevention Action Plan
23 Steering Committee shall convene and preside at the meet-
24 ings of the Steering Committee, set its agenda, coordinate
25 its work, and, may, as appropriate to deal with particular

1 subject matters, establish subcommittees of the Steering
2 Committee.

3 (c) COORDINATION OF STAKEHOLDERS.—In estab-
4 lishing the National Domestic Violence Prevention Action
5 Plan, the Steering Committee shall collaborate with gov-
6 ernment and non-government stakeholders who may be af-
7 fected by the plan, including but not limited to, Federal,
8 State, local, and tribal officials, public health agencies,
9 health care providers, early childhood and child care pro-
10 viders, domestic violence advocacy groups, faith-based or-
11 ganizations, educational agencies, military branches, and
12 community-based and culturally specific child and family
13 serving organizations.

14 (d) STATE AND LOCAL COMMITMENT.—The Steering
15 Committee shall seek support and commitment of Federal,
16 State, local, and tribal officials in formulation and imple-
17 mentation of the National Domestic Violence Prevention
18 Action Plan.

19 (e) STRATEGY BASED ON EVIDENCE.—The Steering
20 Committee shall ensure the National Domestic Violence
21 Prevention Action Plan is based on the best available evi-
22 dence regarding the policies and programs most effective
23 in preventing, reducing the prevalence, and spreading
24 awareness of any and all forms of domestic violence.

1 (f) ADMINISTRATION.—To the extent permitted by
2 law and subject to the availability of appropriations, the
3 Administrator may provide the National Domestic Vi-
4 lence Prevention Action Plan Steering Committee with ad-
5 ministrative services, facilities, staff, and other support
6 services necessary for the creation of the functions of the
7 National Domestic Violence Prevention Action Plan.

8 (g) EXISITING AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBIL-
9 ITIES.—The establishment and operation of the National
10 Domestic Violence Prevention Action Plan shall not be
11 construed to diminish, supersede, or replace the respon-
12 sibilities, authorities, or role of any officer, component, or
13 department official.

14 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION AC-**
15 **TION PLAN DEVELOPMENT.**

16 (a) ACTION PLAN PROMULGATION.—In establishing
17 the National Domestic Violence Prevention Action Plan,
18 the Steering Committee shall promulgate the National Do-
19 mestic Violence Prevention Action Plan, which shall set
20 forth a comprehensive plan to expand, intensify, and co-
21 ordinate domestic violence prevention programs and activi-
22 ties in the United States of America.

23 (b) CONTENT OF THE ACTION PLAN.—The National
24 Domestic Violence Prevention Action Plan shall include
25 but not limited to:

1 (1) Mission statement detailing the major func-
2 tions of the National Domestic Violence Prevention
3 Action Plan.

4 (2) Objectives to the National Domestic Vi-
5 lence Prevention Action Plan including but not lim-
6 ited to:

7 (A) Expand coordination of domestic vio-
8 lence prevention efforts among Federal, State,
9 local, and tribal government agencies and with
10 other relevant stakeholders to ensure a whole-
11 of-government, goal-oriented, community-in-
12 formed, forward-looking approach in addressing
13 domestic violence prevention in the United
14 States.

15 (B) Intensify domestic violence prevention
16 efforts by addressing the continuum of possible
17 harm—

18 (i) primary prevention to reduce the
19 incidence of the problem before it occurs;

20 (ii) secondary prevention to decrease
21 the prevalence after early signs of the
22 problem; and

23 (iii) tertiary prevention to intervene
24 once the problem is already clearly evident
25 and causing harm.

16 (E) Enhance public awareness of domestic
17 violence prevention programs by establishing a
18 national awareness campaign focused primarily
19 on education and prevention.

(3) Comprehensive, research-based, long-range, quantifiable goals for expanding, intensifying, and coordinating domestic violence prevention programs and activities.

24 (4) Annual quantifiable and measurable objec-
25 tives and specific targets to accomplish long-term

1 quantifiable goals that the Steering Committee de-
2 termines may be achieved during each year begin-
3 ning on the date on which the National Domestic Vi-
4 olence Prevention Action Plan is submitted.

5 (5) Five-year projections and budget priorities
6 for the National Domestic Violence Prevention Ac-
7 tion Plan.

8 (6) Clear descriptions of the Steering Com-
9 mittee member's roles in facilitating the development
10 and fulfilling the goals of the National Domestic Vi-
11 olence Prevention Action Plan.

12 (7) A review of international, Federal, State,
13 local, and private sector domestic violence prevention
14 programs and activities to ensure that the United
15 States pursues coordinated and effective domestic vi-
16 olence prevention programs and activities at all lev-
17 els of government.

18 (8) A description of how each goal established
19 under subparagraph (c) was determined, including—

20 (A) a description of each required con-
21 sultation as pursuant to Section 3(3) and a de-
22 scription of how such consultation was incor-
23 porated; and

(B) data, research, or other information used to inform the determination to establish the goal.

16 (C) a list of relevant stakeholders and each
17 such stakeholder's role in achieving such goal;

(E) a list of each existing or new coordinating mechanism needed to achieve such goal;

22 and
23 (F) a description of the Steering Commit-
24 tee's role in facilitating the achievement of such
25 goal

1 (10) A list identifying existing data sources, or
2 a description of data collection needed to evaluate
3 performance, including a description of how the
4 Steering Committee will obtain such data.

5 (11) A list of any anticipated challenges to
6 achieving the goals of the National Domestic Vi-
7 lence Prevention Action Plan and planned actions to
8 address such challenges.

9 (12) A description of the current prevalence
10 and severity of any and all forms of domestic vio-
11 lence in the United States.

12 (13) A description of the current prevalence of
13 domestic violence prevention programs in the United
14 States.

15 (14) Such other statistical data and information
16 as the Steering Committee considers appropriate to
17 demonstrate and assess trends relating to any and
18 all forms of domestic violence and domestic violence
19 prevention, and the implementation of the National
20 Domestic Violence Prevention Action Plan.

21 (15) Methods of implementation for the Na-
22 tional Domestic Violence Prevention Action Plan.

23 (16) Recommendations on research, programs,
24 activities, and resources necessary to achieve the

1 goals of the National Domestic Violence Prevention
2 Action Plan.

3 (c) PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES.—The National Domes-
4 tic Violence Prevention Action Plan shall include a coher-
5 ent, comprehensive, and sustained program of activities
6 that include actions to expand, intensify, and coordinate
7 meaningful and effective prevention programs in all states,
8 tribal and U.S. territories. Such programs will:

9 (1) Embrace a human rights-based approach
10 that acknowledges that domestic violence is a viola-
11 tion of human rights and accounts for the disparate
12 impact of domestic violence on marginalized commu-
13 nities.

14 (2) Address prevention of any and all forms of
15 domestic violence, including all violence that happens
16 across the life course; violence in public and private
17 spheres; violence in the workplace, including within
18 U.S. Armed Forces; and violence in national con-
19 texts.

20 (3) Address the root causes, prevalence, and
21 impact of any and all forms of domestic violence, in-
22 cluding social and cultural norms and other associ-
23 ated factors.

24 (4) Tailor strategies to address factors, includ-
25 ing but not limited to, race, color, religion, national

1 or social origin, marital status, housing status, sex-
2 ual orientation, HIV/AIDS status, migrant or ref-
3 ugee status, age, disability, or any other relevant
4 characteristics and any of these in combination that
5 contribute to higher rates of any and all forms of
6 domestic violence.

7 (5) Identify gaps in any and all existing domes-
8 tic violence prevention programs with the goal of ad-
9 dressing the gaps in future work.

10 (6) Support government and non-government
11 organizations and community networks to drive ac-
12 tivity at the State and local level and ensure coordi-
13 nated action across all states and localities.

14 (7) Support independent research on emerging
15 issues that impact any and all forms of domestic vio-
16 lence.

17 (8) Collect, communicate, and analyze com-
18 prehensive qualitative and quantitative data,
19 disaggregated by sex, race, age, ethnicity, and other
20 relevant characteristics, on the nature, prevalence,
21 and impact of any and all forms of domestic vio-
22 lence.

23 (9) Build quantity and quality of professionals
24 involved in the prevention of any and all forms of
25 domestic violence.

(10) Support broader efforts to ensure gender equality and engage people of all genders and sexualities in combating any and all forms of domestic violence.

(d) MEDIA CAMPAIGN.—The National Domestic Violence Prevention Action Plan shall include a media campaign led by the Department of Health and Human Services to facilitate direct, ongoing, and meaningful engagement with the public as it relates to domestic violence prevention.

11 (1) PURPOSE OF MEDIA CAMPAIGN.—

14 (B) engage with the public on bystander
15 empowerment and education;

16 (C) teach safe and healthy relationships
17 skills through social emotional learning;

(E) disrupt the developmental pathways towards domestic violence through parenting and family relationship programs, treatment for at-

1 risk children, faith-based programs, and other
2 culturally specific programming; and

3 (F) combat the stigmas associated with
4 any and all forms of domestic violence.

5 (2) CONTENT OF MEDIA CAMPAIGN.—The De-
6 partment of Health and Human Services shall create
7 a media campaign or enter into a contract with an
8 outside agency using strategies demonstrated to be
9 the most effective at achieving the goals and require-
10 ments of paragraph (a), which shall include, but not
11 limited to:

12 (A) The development of national, local, re-
13 gional, or population specific messaging, includ-
14 ing messaging specific to professional groups,
15 such as public health leaders, health care pro-
16 viders, early childhood and child care providers,
17 domestic violence providers, faith-based leaders,
18 educators, military leaders, and community-
19 based and culturally specific child and family
20 serving organizations.

21 (B) The development of social media cam-
22 paigns to reach targeted populations.

23 (C) The development of a website to pub-
24 licize and disseminate information.

(D) The development of informational and educational pamphlets and brochures.

(E) The development of webinars to educate and provide support.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

6 There is authorized to be appropriated to the De-
7 partment of Health and Human Services to carry
8 out this section, \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years
9 2025 through 2029.

10 SEC. 5. STRENGTHEN INFORMATION TO STATE DOMESTIC
11 VIOLENCE COALITIONS WITH RESPECT TO
12 THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PRE-
13 VENTION ACTION PLAN.

14 (a) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Na-
15 tional Domestic Violence Prevention Action Plan Steering
16 Committee, acting through the Department of Health and
17 Human Services, shall develop and disseminate to State
18 domestic violence coalitions information on the National
19 Domestic Violence Prevention Action Plan and its re-
20 spected Media Campaign.

21 SEC. 6. ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACTION PLAN.

23 (a) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than the
24 first Monday in October following the year of enactment,
25 and biannually thereafter, the National Domestic Violence

1 Prevention Action Plan Steering Committee shall submit
2 to Congress in the form of written correspondence a Na-
3 tional Domestic Violence Prevention Action Plan.

