

AMY KLOBUCHAR
MINNESOTA

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 1, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Commerce, Justice, & Science Subcommittee
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Commerce, Justice, & Science Subcommittee
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chair Shaheen, and Ranking Member Moran:

As you negotiate the FY 2022 appropriations package, I write to urge you to continue to advocate for strong funding for Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs at the highest possible level. These programs provide lifesaving services for victims of intimate partner violence and supports to help people rebuild their lives.

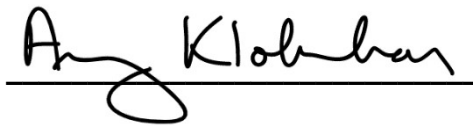
Since VAWA was enacted in 1994, the law has helped hundreds of thousands of people who have experienced domestic violence and sexual assault. The programs have provided access to transitional housing, legal aid representation, counseling services, and other critical supports. VAWA has not only helped to improve the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, it has also raised public awareness about the prevalence of these crimes.

As a former prosecutor, I have seen firsthand how domestic violence and other abuses destroyed families and had a lifelong impact on victims. I have also seen how VAWA programs help to keep people safe from domestic violence and sexual abuse.

That is why Congress must fund these programs at the highest possible level, including funding to help victims live independently from their abuser, combat domestic violence and child abuse in rural communities, improve the investigation of sexual assault committed in tribal communities, and address sexual violence on college campuses. Generously funding these programs is necessary to build on the progress that has been made since VAWA was first passed.

Thank you for your continued support for victims of intimate partner violence and for prioritizing these programs in the appropriations process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Klobuchar". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senator