



Resolution in Recognition of the 25th Anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and Supporting Reauthorization of VAWA

WHEREAS, in 1994 the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was enacted to address congressional concerns about violent crime, particularly crimes against women associated with domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and

WHEREAS, the VAWA allowed for enhanced sentencing of repeat federal sex offenders; mandated restitution to victims of specified federal sex offenses; and authorized grants to state, local, and tribal law enforcement entities to investigate and prosecute violent crimes against women; and

WHEREAS, the fundamental goals of the VAWA are to prevent violent crime; respond to the needs of crime victims; learn more about crime; and change public attitudes through a collaborative effort by the criminal justice system, social service agencies, research organizations, schools, public health organizations, and private organizations; and

WHEREAS, the VAWA supports programs to address domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, among other crimes;

WHEREAS, the continued focus on these issues since original enactment have resulted in the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act of 2019, which includes critical improvements to existing law and invests in prevention, access to justice for Native survivors, protections for victims of dating violence and stalking, enforcement of court orders, and safe housing for survivors; and

WHEREAS, the NCJFCJ has supported reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, the Office on Violence Against Women, and efforts to improve the justice system's response to domestic violence issues nationwide in resolutions adopted in 1999, 2001, 2017 and supports the reauthorization of VAWA 2019; and

WHEREAS, in the 25 years since its enactment, the VAWA has aligned with the NCJFCJ's mission to provide all judges, courts, and related agencies involved with juvenile, family, and domestic violence cases with the knowledge and skills to improve the lives of the families and children who seek justice; and

WHEREAS, since 1987, largely made possible by the VAWA, the NCJFCJ has joined in public and private partnerships to advance social change in courts and communities across the country to enhance the safety, well-being, and stability of domestic violence victims and their children through judicial education, technical assistance, and policy development; and

WHEREAS, the VAWA has supported priority areas including coordinated civil and criminal responses to domestic violence using a collaborative framework and judicial leadership, accelerating reforms, and on the strength of judicial leadership and collaboration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges recognizes and honors the 25 years of progress made possible by the Violence Against Women Act to address domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, among other crimes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges remains committed to continuing efforts to realize the full potential of the Violence Against Women Act in our society and communities and supports the reauthorization of VAWA 2019.

Adopted by the NCJFCJ Board of Directors, July 27, 2019, in Orlando, Florida.