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National Network to End Domestic Violence Welcomes Move to Reauthorize Life-Saving Legislation

Washington, DC – The National Network to End Domestic Violence today applauded Congresswoman Gwen Moore, joined by Representatives Aaron Schock, Judy Biggert, and Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, for introducing a bill to reauthorize the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA). FVPSA is the only federal program dedicated to supporting local domestic violence shelters and programs across the country.

“The National Network to End Domestic Violence commends Representatives Moore, Schock, Biggert and Sablan for their leadership on this life-saving legislation,” said Brian Namey, spokesperson for the National Network. “This bill – the only federal funding dedicated to domestic violence shelters – is an investment in saving lives. This legislation represents hope for millions of survivors and their children who seek safety from violent homes.”

For more than 25 years, FVPSA has been at the heart of our nation’s response to domestic violence. The reauthorization presents an opportunity to build upon its success and make vital improvements.

This legislation is being introduced at a critical time. The economic downturn is exacerbating domestic violence. The economy does not cause domestic violence, but economic distress can increase the frequency and severity of ongoing abuse. Economic hardships can also limit options for survivors to escape. The demand for domestic violence services is up, but funding for them is down.

“We urge Congress to reauthorize the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act and fully fund it to meet the growing demand for services,” said Namey. “This legislation, when fully funded, will save countless lives and improve the quality of life for so many survivors and their children.”

In one day alone, the National Network found that local domestic violence programs served nearly 61,000 victims and answered more than 21,000 crisis hotline calls. During the same 24 hours, nearly 9,000 requests for assistance went unmet, mostly due to lack of funding.

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NNEDV, a 501(c)(3) organization, is a leading voice for domestic violence victims and their allies. Its members include the 56 state and territorial coalitions against domestic violence. It works closely with them to understand the needs of domestic violence victims and advocacy programs. NNEDV has been a premiere national organization advancing the movement against domestic violence for the past 15 years, after leading efforts among domestic violence advocates and survivors in urging Congress to pass the landmark Violence Against Women Act of 1994. To learn more about NNEDV, please visit www.nnedv.org.