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Survivors of Violence and Abuse Will Get Life-Saving Services Because Senate Passed VOCA Fix Act Today

“The U.S. Senate helped avert further devastating cuts to programs serving survivors of domestic and sexual violence and child abuse by passing the VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) Fix Act today. The U.S. House passed this essential legislation in March. It now goes to President Biden for his signature.

This bipartisan bill restores funding from the Crime Victims Act, which gives local victim services organizations the support they need to help people who survive crime and violence heal and recover by accessing counseling, forensic exams, and items such as new locks for their door and windows. In the most tragic cases, VOCA funds can also help pay for funeral costs.

Originally created by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), the Crime Victims Fund is one the core federal funding pillars supporting programs that aide victims of domestic and sexual violence and child abuse. It is supported by penalties and fees paid by those who commit crimes, which are then used to compensate and assist those who have been victimized. In Fiscal Year 2020, VOCA disbursement, and therefore the funds available to victim services programs, decreased by 25%, diminishing the capacity of these programs just as the pandemic put more people at risk for violence. Passage of this bill today will help restore the Fund’s balances.

We thank Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL), Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Chuck Schumer (D-NY) for their dedication and leadership in helping win Senate passage of this life-saving bill. Our communities will be safer when it becomes law.”

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ABOUT FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE:

For more than 30 years, FUTURES has been providing groundbreaking programs, policies and campaigns that empower individuals and organizations working to end violence against women and children around the world. Striving to reach new audiences and transform social norms, FUTURES trains professionals such as doctors, nurses, judges and athletic coaches on improving responses to violence and abuse. FUTURES also works with advocates, policymakers and others to build sustainable community leadership and educate people everywhere about the importance of respect and healthy relationships.