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Statement of Esta Soler,

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A Good Day for the Country, As President Biden Signs the Violence Against Women Act Into Law

“Women and children, families and communities will be safer because Congress passed and President Biden signed the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA 2022) into law today.

This landmark, urgently needed legislation builds on our knowledge about how to prevent violence by investing in programs that engage children and youth, men and boys, and those on college campuses. It includes Bree’s Law, named in honor of Bree Moore, which will help prevent teen dating violence. It increases funding for the Rape Prevention and Education Program and for culturally specific violence prevention programs. It expands the work to prevent sexual violence and harassment online. It strengthens health programs so they better address the intersection of gender-based violence and mental and behavioral health. It expands the rights of Tribes to prosecute people who sexually assault or abuse Native Women and children, which happens with terrifying frequency. And in other ways, VAWA 2022 will stop violence against women and children and make our communities safer.

In addition to President Biden and Vice President Harris, we thank Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), Richard Durbin (D-Illinois) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), as well as Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Representatives Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pennsylvania) for their unwavering commitment to getting VAWA 2022 reauthorized. This is a law, and an investment in prevention, our country needs.”

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ABOUT FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE:

For more than 35 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. More information is available at www.futureswithoutviolence.org.