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Statement of Esta Soler,
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Speedy Passage of Violence Against Women Act, Introduced in House of Representatives Yesterday, Is Essential to Making Our Country Safer and Supporting Survivors of Violence and Abuse

“The Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization of 2021 (VAWA) makes a deep and badly needed investment in the prevention our country needs. This is landmark legislation that builds on the knowledge we have gained about how to prevent violence, support survivors, and keep women and children safe. We are especially pleased that it increases authorized funding for the Saving Money and Reducing Tragedies (SMART) through Prevention program, a legacy of Congressman John Lewis who worked to create that program during the last reauthorization of VAWA. It is a fitting tribute to a man who, among so many accomplishments, worked hard to reduce violence and invest in young people.

“The legislation also makes significant progress in expanding programs to meet the needs of culturally specific communities and improve how employers respond to workers who experience domestic or sexual violence or harassment. Passage of VAWA 2021 will allow us to intensify our work helping survivors come back to work and achieve the economic security they desperately need to be safe. With COVID-19 confining so many people to their homes and reshaping the ways we are able to protect those at risk, we especially need this law now. The delays that prevented reauthorization during the last Congress must not occur again. The next urgent step is for the House to pass this bill now.”

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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.