

Sample Letter to U.S. Senator/Representative

Legislator Name and address

Date

Dear Senator (Representative) _____,

As a constituent of your district, I am writing to urge you to support funding for programs to reduce gender-based violence and provide much-needed services to survivors. Although the global *Week Without Violence (WWV)* campaign has been active for twenty-five years, domestic violence continues to be a major issue in our communities.

The 117th Congress made significant progress on these issues by funding domestic violence services through the American Rescue Plan, increasing appropriations for priority victim services, and passing the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021.

I am calling on you to build upon these successes by fully funding key programs that provide essential services, including VOCA (Victims of Crime Act), FVPSA (Family Violence Prevention and Services Act), and VAWA (Violence Against Women Act).

In addition, I request your support to pass the Family Prevention and Services Improvement Act (FVPSA) to meet the growing needs of domestic violence survivors. As you know, the FVPSA provides much-needed funding to local shelters and programs that serve more than 1.3 million domestic violence victims and their children every year.

However, domestic violence programs and shelters report that they struggle to meet the demand for these critical services. In order to meet the unmet needs of survivors, access to FVPSA must be expanded through policy enhancements, increased funding authorization levels, and increased annual appropriations.

In addition, Congress needs to enact common-sense gun safety legislation to address the growing use of firearms in domestic violence offenses. Last year's historic Bipartisan Safer Communities Act was the most significant gun violence reduction legislation enacted in nearly 30 years. It provided funding for school safety, mental health, and state crisis intervention programs, as well as incentives for states to include juvenile records in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, which would provide a more comprehensive background check for those between the ages of 18 and 21 who want to buy guns.

I urge you to build upon that progress by passing common-sense reforms to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, require universal background checks for all gun sales, require safe storage of firearms, and repeal gun manufacturers' immunity from liability.

Polls conducted by Gallup, CNN, and Pew Research all confirm that the vast majority of Americans favor stricter gun control laws, especially those that would keep firearms out of the hands of people with mental illness or a history of violence. Your leadership on this issue would help stem the tide of violence and create stronger, safer communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Name

Address