

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 132**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress and President to reauthorize “Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/8/2021)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging Congress and the President of
2 the United States to reauthorize the “Family Violence Prevention
3 and Services Act.”
4
5 **WHEREAS**, The “Family Violence Prevention and Services Act”
6 (FVPSA) was the first federal law to address domestic violence,
7 and today provides the primary federal funding stream in support of
8 victims of domestic and dating violence and their dependents; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Each year, more than 1,600 community-based programs
10 receiving FVPSA funds provide emergency shelter, counseling,
11 legal assistance, crisis intervention, and domestic and dating
12 violence prevention education to 1.3 million victims; and
13 **WHEREAS**, The FVPSA funds programs such as the National
14 Domestic Violence Hotline, which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days
15 a week. In fiscal year 2017, trained operators and advocates on the
16 Hotline provided important victim assistance services by answering
17 323,081 total phone calls, text messages, and online chats; and
18 **WHEREAS**, A study conducted by the National Network to End
19 Domestic Violence (NNEDV) revealed that in just one day in 2017,
20 72,245 victims of domestic violence across the United States
21 received crucial services such as refuge in emergency shelters and
22 transitional housing, counseling, legal advocacy, and children’s
23 support groups; and
24 **WHEREAS**, The same study found that 1,288 of those victims were
25 located in New Jersey; and
26 **WHEREAS**, Despite the volume of services that FVPSA-funded
27 shelters and programs provide daily, the NNEDV study noted that
28 11,441 requests for services, 131 of which were in New Jersey,
29 went unmet due to lack of funding and resources; and
30 **WHEREAS**, A federal law enacted in 2010 reauthorized, or allowed for
31 formal continued federal funding of, FVPSA through 2015, but the
32 FVPSA has not been reauthorized since; and
33 **WHEREAS**, Bipartisan legislation, pending before the United States
34 Senate and House of Representatives as S.2784 and H.R.6014,
35 would reauthorize FVPSA funding from 2019 to 2023; and
36 **WHEREAS**, While FVPSA has continued to receive federal
37 appropriations since its authorization ended in 2015, funding has
38 been consistently less than the \$175 million annual appropriation
39 authorized in the law, leaving an unacceptable gap between
40 desperate need and available resources; and
41 **WHEREAS**, Passage and enactment of the FVPSA reauthorization
42 legislation would help to protect the law from significant future
43 funding cuts and a reduction in life-saving services to victims of
44 domestic and dating violence; now, therefore,
45
46 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
47 *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate; the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives; and every member of Congress elected from this State.

This concurrent resolution urges Congress and the President of the United States to reauthorize the “Family Violence Prevention and Services Act” (FVPSA). A federal law enacted in 2010 reauthorized, or allowed for formal continued federal funding of, the FVPSA until 2015, but the FVPSA has not been reauthorized since. Bipartisan legislation, pending before the United States Senate and House of Representatives as S.2784 and H.R.6014, would reauthorize FVPSA funding from 2019 to 2023.

FVPSA provides the primary federal funding stream in support of victims of domestic and dating violence and their dependents. Each year, the FVPSA, through various grants, helps fund over 1,600 community-based programs that provide emergency shelter, counseling, legal assistance, crisis intervention, and domestic and dating violence prevention education to 1.3 million victims nationwide. The law also funds the National Domestic Violence Hotline, which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and has a staff of trained operators and advocates who, in fiscal year 2017, answered 323,081 total phone calls, text messages, and online chats.

A study conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) revealed that in just one day in 2017, 72,245 victims of domestic violence across the United States, 1,288 of whom were from New Jersey, received crucial services supported by the FVPSA. Despite the volume of services that FVPSA-funded shelters and programs provide daily, the NNEDV study noted that 11,441 requests for services, 131 of which were in New Jersey, went unmet due to lack of funding and resources.

During a time in which domestic violence shelters overwhelmingly report that they struggle to meet demand for critical services, reauthorization of the FVPSA will help ensure protection against significant future funding cuts.