



**30th Anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act
Statement by**

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Chief Executive Officer
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Today, the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). This watershed law has improved the lives of millions of survivors and expanded access to trauma-informed, evidence-based healthcare for survivors in need. We thank President Biden for his tireless work on these critical issues.

IAFN is proud to have longstanding partnerships with the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Indian Health Service, and other federal agencies that collaborate to educate forensic nurses on how to ensure the best care for patients who have experienced violence, particularly those in at-risk populations.

Our work, however, is not done. In 2022, Congress reauthorized and strengthened VAWA for the first time in nearly 10 years, acknowledging the gravity of violence in the lives of individuals, families, and communities affected. The reauthorization entrusts HHS with the authority to improve access to healthcare professionals who are specially trained to treat patients affected by violence.

Unfortunately, the law's full extent is not yet realized. Despite the establishment of VAWA reauthorization more than two years ago in the FY 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Congress has not yet fully funded all of the VAWA programs.

Today, IAFN calls on Congress to complete its work and fulfill its commitment to survivors of violence by fully funding all new VAWA programs at HHS.

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