

**National Taskforce to End Sexual Violence**  
**Day of Action (June 5<sup>th</sup>) Overview for Safe + Sound Somerset**

**Summary**

Any change or reduction to federal funding would jeopardize vital services for survivors, including support for safety, stability and recovery, leaving individuals and families without the life-saving support they need to escape violence, recover, and heal. **Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>** is a **National Day of Action** to demand protection and investment in federal funding for domestic violence and sexual assault services and prevention.

**What can I do?**

- **Call your representatives**

- Senator Cory Booker: (202) 224-3224
- Senator Andy Kim: (202) 224-4744
- Representative Tom Kean Jr.: (202) 225-5361

Call Script (*Note – this is suggested text – revise as you desire so it comes from your voice!*)

“I’m calling from Safe + Sound Somerset in New Jersey to urge **Rep./Sen.XXX** to take immediate action to protect and support increased federal funding to serve victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. Federal grants from the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Centers for Disease and Control (CDC) are essential to our programs.

Right now we’re facing major problems with delays, grant terminations across the field, programmatic restructuring, loss of staff, delayed posting of NOFOs, and lack of communication that are causing serious uncertainty and alarm. We need reliable, stable, and timely federal funding to continue to provide safety, support and services and people experiencing violence. Please ask **Rep./Sen. XXX** to commit to protecting this critical funding and investing in lifesaving resources.”

- **Post on social media**

Hashtags for this day of action are **#FundSafetyNow** and **#ProtectVictims**. Graphics for posts can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

*Example posts:*

“Sexual assault and domestic violence programs are lifelines for survivors. Federal funding cuts are forcing programs to shut their doors to survivors in need, leaving them with nowhere to turn. We need Congress to support, increase and protect federal funding for organizations including Safe + Sound Somerset. **#FundSafetyNow #ProtectVictims**”

“The cruelty of defunding domestic violence programs doesn’t make survivors – or anybody – safer. Congress must support, increase, and protect federal funding to the services at Safe + Sound Somerset that survivors rely on. #FundSafetyNow #ProtectVictims”

“Domestic violence and sexual assault programs in New Jersey rely on federal funding for staffing, services, and prevention. We provide essential community services at Safe + Sound Somerset, and recent federal grant terminations threaten our program and survivors’ lives. Congress must reinstate and protect our funding! #FundSafetyNow #ProtectVictims”

***If desired, do add your “why” to any of these scripts – share the reasons you are passionate about this work and why you continue to fight for survivors!***

**For reference: Key messages from the National Taskforce about what is at stake**

- **Federal grants are essential** to the infrastructure that supports over five million adult and child survivors annually—providing emergency shelter, legal advocacy, trauma counseling, and other lifesaving services.
  - **Without federal funding, critical services will vanish**—programs will be forced to lay off staff, reduce capacity, or shut down entirely, leaving survivors without support in their time of greatest need.
  - Delays are devastating. Even a few weeks of funding delays equals reduced services, layoffs and eventually program closures.
- **Investing in victim services is both lifesaving and cost-effective**
  - Domestic violence costs the U.S. \$12 billion annually in healthcare, legal proceedings, and lost productivity.
  - Rape costs survivors over \$122,000 each. Across all victims, sexual violence costs the U.S. economy nearly \$3.1 trillion.
  - Research found that in its first five years, the Violence Against Women Act—prevented \$14.8 billion in victimization costs.
  - Prevention is highly cost-effective, delivering \$6–\$12 in savings for every \$1 invested.
- Continuing to invest in a reliable, stable federal response to the crimes of domestic violence and sexual assault isn’t just the right thing to do—it’s a strategic move toward a healthier, more prosperous future where fewer lives are impacted by violence and communities can not only become safer but ultimately thrive.
- Research shows that when victims have access to the services they need, they are more likely to heal, pursue justice, and reclaim their lives. Federal funding plays a vital role in protecting survivors—offering them not just safety, but the opportunity to rebuild and thrive. When that happens, our nation sees lower long-term costs, better public health, and safer communities.