

# One Hundred Fifteenth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Wednesday,  
the third day of January, two thousand and eighteen*

## An Act

To promote pro bono legal services as a critical way in which to empower survivors of domestic violence.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2018” or the “POWER Act”.

### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Extremely high rates of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking exist at the local, State, tribal, and national levels and such violence or behavior harms the most vulnerable members of our society.

(2) According to a study commissioned by the Department of Justice, nearly 25 percent of women suffer from domestic violence during their lifetime.

(3) Proactive efforts should be made available in all forums to provide pro bono legal services and eliminate the violence that destroys lives and shatters families.

(4) A variety of factors cause domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and a variety of solutions at the local, State, and national levels are necessary to combat such violence or behavior.

(5) According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, which conducted a census including almost 1,700 assistance programs, over the course of 1 day in September 2014, more than 10,000 requests for services, including legal representation, were not met.

(6) Pro bono assistance can help fill this need by providing not only legal representation, but also access to emergency shelter, transportation, and childcare.

(7) Research and studies have demonstrated that the provision of legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking reduces the probability of such violence or behavior reoccurring in the future and can help survivors move forward.

(8) Legal representation increases the possibility of successfully obtaining a protective order against an attacker, which prevents further mental and physical injury to a victim and his or her family, as demonstrated by a study that found that 83 percent of victims represented by an attorney were

able to obtain a protective order, whereas only 32 percent of victims without an attorney were able to do so.

(9) The American Bar Association Model Rules include commentary stating that “every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, has a responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay, and personal involvement in the problems of the disadvantaged can be one of the most rewarding experiences in the life of a lawyer”.

(10) As leaders in their legal communities, judges in district courts should encourage lawyers to provide pro bono resources in an effort to help victims of such violence or behavior escape the cycle of abuse.

(11) A dedicated army of pro bono attorneys focused on this mission will inspire others to devote efforts to this cause and will raise awareness of the scourge of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking throughout the country.

(12) Communities, by providing awareness of pro bono legal services and assistance to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, will empower those survivors to move forward with their lives.

### **SEC. 3. DISTRICT COURTS TO PROMOTE EMPOWERMENT EVENTS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for a period of 4 years, the chief judge, or his or her designee, for each judicial district shall lead not less than one public event, in partnership with a State, local, tribal, or territorial domestic violence service provider or coalition and a State or local volunteer lawyer project, promoting pro bono legal services as a critical way in which to empower survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and engage citizens in assisting those survivors.

(b) **DISTRICTS CONTAINING INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.**—During each 2-year period, the chief judge, or his or her designee, for a judicial district that contains an Indian tribe or tribal organization (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) shall lead not less than one public event promoting pro bono legal services under subsection (a) of this section in partnership with an Indian tribe or tribal organization with the intent of increasing the provision of pro bono legal services for Indian or Alaska Native victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

(c) **REQUIREMENTS.**—Each chief judge shall—

(1) have discretion as to the design, organization, and implementation of the public events required under subsection (a); and

(2) in conducting a public event under subsection (a), seek to maximize the local impact of the event and the provision of access to high-quality pro bono legal services by survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

### **SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) **REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS.**—Not later than October 30 of each year, each chief judge shall submit to the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts a report detailing



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS REPORT

## GUAM SUMMARY

On September 9, 2021, **1** out of **4 (25%)** identified domestic violence programs in Guam participated in a national count of domestic violence services conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV). In 2021, frontline advocates continued to navigate unforeseen challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises. The following figures represent the information shared by the participating programs about the services they provided during the 24-hour survey period.

### 39 Victims Served in One Day

**39** adult and child victims of domestic violence found refuge in emergency shelters, transitional housing, hotels, motels, or other housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

### 5 Hotline Contacts Received

Domestic violence hotlines are lifelines for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources via phone, chat, text, and email. Hotline staff received **5** contacts.

### 0 Unmet Requests for Services

While program staff were able to meet all of victims' needs during the survey period and did not report any unmet requests, there is still a tremendous need for increased funding to ensure programs can provide comprehensive services to all survivors seeking help while working toward preventing violence in their communities.

Table 1: Services Provided on 9/9/21	% of Programs Providing Services
Childcare/Daycare	100%
Emergency Shelter	100%
Hotel/Motel Stay	100%
Support/Advocacy Related to Housing/Landlord	100%
Support/Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	100%
Transitional or Other Housing (run by DV program)	100%
Transportation	100%

✦ **“We provided a survivor with transportation to obtain documents—the last step she needed to apply for housing. Hopefully she can move into her home in the next few weeks and begin a new start with her children.”**

Learn more about domestic violence in Guam: [GuamCoalition.org](https://GuamCoalition.org)