

ALLIANCE for HOPE INTERNATIONAL

January 19, 2017

Dear President-elect Trump,

Today, [news broke](#) that you may soon propose \$10 trillion in cuts to federal spending including **eliminating the Office on Violence Against Women and ALL grants related to protecting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children**. To those of us who have invested our lives in the struggle to protect victims and their children, we are not totally surprised if this is your decision. But we urge you not to go down this road.

As we stand together in the debate to come, we can and will stop such a proposal from destroying 30 years of work in a movement that has saved the lives of women, children, and men by reducing violence and abuse. We can and will win this debate based on the facts and the clear outcomes that have been achieved through the Violence Against Women Act.

This is not a budget debate. This is not a debate about federal deficits. This is a life and death debate. This is a human and civil rights debate. The monies invested in VAWA since 1995 by Republicans and Democrats have saved money and lives across this country. [Alliance for HOPE International](#) is committed to standing with our allied [Family Justice Centers](#), national domestic violence and sexual assault prevention organizations, community-based domestic violence and sexual assault agency partners, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, doctors, nurses, advocates, elected officials, faith leaders, and business supporters. We will stand with every caring person in this country that will not remain silent in the face of such disrespect and disregard for women and children experiencing violence and abuse.

One hundred and fifty years ago the courts of this country called women "property", said that family violence should never be discussed in public, and allowed men to abuse women with impunity. The beliefs and values represented in this type of proposal harken back to those days. WE WILL NEVER GO BACK TO THOSE DAYS. Not even you, as the President of the United States, have the right or the power to compel us back into those dark times in American history. Women and children will die. Police officers will die. Violence and abuse will rise dramatically if you choose to propose these cuts and you succeed.

Republicans and Democrats will stand together to ensure that we successfully continue our struggle to reduce domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, and human trafficking in this country. No, Mr. Trump, working together with a bi-partisan passion, we will not allow you to succeed if you choose this course.

With Determined HOPE,

Alliance for HOPE International

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