

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4860

To amend the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 to establish a national domestic violence victim notification system.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 20, 1998

Mr. BAESLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 to establish a national domestic violence victim notification system.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Domestic Vio-
5 lence Victim Notification Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.**

7 (a) AMENDMENT.—Subtitle A of the Violence
8 Against Women Act of 1994 is amended by adding at the
9 end the following:

1 **“CHAPTER 6—VICTIM NOTIFICATION**
2 **SYSTEM**

3 **“SEC. 40161. ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may make
5 a grant to a private non-profit entity to create and operate
6 a national victim notification system (referred to in this
7 section as a ‘VINE system’). A VINE system shall be a
8 comprehensive community and individual awareness pro-
9 gram that connects communities and victims of domestic
10 violence with vital criminal justice information about indi-
11 viduals who have been charged with a domestic violence
12 crime and prison inmates.

13 “(c) NOTIFICATION.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The VINE system shall
15 have a system whereby information about such indi-
16 viduals and inmates, including the status of the
17 prosecution of such individuals, the correctional sta-
18 tus of such inmates, the availability of assistance
19 from local law enforcement agencies and civil re-
20 straining orders upon the release of such inmates,
21 the location of the nearest domestic violence center,
22 and any information obtained in the course of a sex-
23 ual offender registration, shall be available to indi-
24 viduals who contact the system.

1 “(2) SPECIFIC COMPONENTS.— Such a system
2 shall include—

3 “(A) information on the trail date for an
4 individual charged with a domestic violence
5 crime, the release date of a prison inmate, the
6 location of the prison, if the inmate has not
7 been released, the parole eligibility dates of the
8 inmate, the date the imprisonment sentence ex-
9 pires, and any other relevant data respecting
10 such inmate as may be developed under data-
11 bases under State sexual offender registration
12 programs under section 170101 of the Violent
13 Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of
14 1994;

15 “(B) referrals of victims to appropriate law
16 enforcement or victim service organizations;

17 “(C) a toll free number which operates 24
18 hours a day, 365 days a year which a victim of
19 domestic violence may use to receive the infor-
20 mation described in subparagraphs (A) and
21 (B);

22 “(D) a procedure under which a victim
23 may register with the system to receive auto-
24 matic telephone notification when the inmate
25 involved has a change in custody or other

1 change, including court appointments, which
2 may involve or threaten the victim; and

3 “(E) the safeguards of the system to pro-
4 tect the confidentiality of victims calling the toll
5 free number or receiving inmate information.”.

6 “(d) OTHER ACTIVITIES.—In establishing and oper-
7 ating a VINE system, the entity involved shall—

8 “(1) establish a procedure whereby the VINE
9 system is to receive on a regular basis information
10 from the courts, corrections institutions, and law en-
11 forcement agencies, including law enforcement agen-
12 cies which have information from a State program
13 for the registration of sexual offenders, about indi-
14 viduals charged with domestic violence crimes and
15 prison inmates;

16 “(2) work collaboratively with the National Do-
17 mestic Violence Hotline authorized under section
18 40211 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994
19 (42 U.S.C. 10416) to create a system of automatic
20 referral to the National Domestic Violence Hotline
21 for information on the availability of shelters and
22 services that support battered women in the caller’s
23 area ; and

24 “(3) in connection with the National Domestic
25 Violence Hotline, employ, train, and supervise per-

1 sonnel to answer incoming calls and provide counsel-
2 ing and referral services to callers on a 24 hour-a-
3 day basis;

4 “(4) publicize the National Domestic Violence
5 Hotline to potential users throughout the area the
6 system is to serve.

7 “(e) GRANTS.—To be approved for a grant under
8 subsection (a), an application for such grant shall—

9 (1) contain such agreements, assurances, and
10 information, be in such form and be submitted in
11 such manner as the Attorney General shall prescribe
12 through notice in the Federal Register;

13 (2) include a complete description of the appli-
14 cant’s plan for its operation in connection with the
15 National Domestic Violence Hotline, including de-
16 scriptions of—

17 “(A) the training program for hotline per-
18 sonnel;

19 “(B) the hiring criteria for hotline person-
20 nel;

21 “(C) the methods for the creation, mainte-
22 nance, and updating of a resource database;

23 “(D) a plan for publicizing the availability
24 of the hotline;

1 “(E) a plan for providing service to non-
2 English speaking callers; and

3 “(F) a plan for facilitating access to the
4 hotline by persons with hearing impairments;

5 “(3) demonstrate that the applicant has nation-
6 ally recognized expertise in the area of domestic vio-
7 lence and a record of high quality service to victims
8 of domestic violence;

9 “(4) demonstrate that the applicant has a com-
10 mitment to the provision of services to ethnic, racial,
11 and non-English speaking minorities, older individ-
12 uals, and individuals with disabilities; and

13 “(5) contain such other information as the At-
14 torney General may require.

15 “(f) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this chapter, the
16 term ‘prison inmate’ means a person who has been impris-
17 oned for conviction of a crime involving domestic vio-
18 lence.”.

19 **SEC. 3. STUDY.**

20 The Attorney General shall conduct a study about the
21 integration of a national victim notification system with
22 the National Domestic Violence Hotline, databases devel-
23 oped under State sexual offender registration programs
24 under section 170101 of the Violent Crime Control and
25 Law Enforcement Act of 1994, and the National Crime

- 1 Information Center. The Attorney General shall report the
- 2 result of such study to Congress along with any rec-
- 3 ommendation for legislation arising from such study.

