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FY19 Funding Request for Programs Under the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) within the U.S. Department of Justice

Position

The International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) strongly supports enhanced funding for the Justice for All Act and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) for FY19. IAFN strongly supports maintaining current protections for Native Women, immigrants and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities concerning DOJ grant resources to ensure access to care for all patients.

On the heels of enactment of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act (P.L. 114-324) in the 114th Congress, IAFN respectfully requests:

- **\$25 million for Sexual Assault Forensic Exams under the DNA Backlog and Crime Lab Improvements Program within the OJP**

Also, IAFN urges Congress to fund the following programs within the OVW to address and prevent violence in our communities. These requests are supported by The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

- **\$222 million for Services, Training, Officers and Prosecutors (STOP Grants)**
- **\$73 million for Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies (GTEAP Grants)**
- **\$40 million for Sexual Assault Services Program**
- **\$50 million for Services for Rural Victims**
- **\$26 million for Campus Violence Program**
- **\$45 million for Sexual Assault Kit Backlog**
- **\$2.5 million for Rape Survivor Child Custody**

Background

Forensic nurses are on the front lines of treating and caring for patients who have experienced intimate partner violence and sexual assault. Section 4 of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act specifically addressed the availability of sexual assault nurse examiners. The Act expanded upon the existing grant program under the Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women to give preference to any eligible entity that certifies that the entity will use the grant funds to 1) operate or expand forensic nurse examiner programs in a rural area or for an underserved population, 2) hire full-time forensic nurse examiners to conduct activities, or 3) sustain or establish a training program for forensic nurse examiners.

Additionally, the Act directs the Attorney General to coordinate with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to inform Federally Qualified Health Centers, Community Health Centers, hospitals, colleges and universities, and other appropriate health-related entities about the role of forensic nurses and existing resources available within the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services to train or employ forensic nurses to address the needs of communities dealing with sexual assault, domestic violence and elder abuse. The Attorney General shall collaborate on this effort with non-governmental organizations representing forensic nurses.

VAWA is the cornerstone of our nation's response to domestic and sexual violence. Initially passed in 1994, VAWA created the first U.S. federal legislation acknowledging domestic violence and sexual assault as crimes and provided federal resources to encourage community-coordinated responses to combating violence.

Please contact Patrick Cooney at Patrick@federalgrp.com or 202-347-0034 x101 with any questions you might have regarding this issue.