



United States Senate

April 22, 2020

Robert Rivas
Assemblymember, Thirtieth District
California State Legislature
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Assemblymember Rivas:

Thank you and your colleagues in the California State Legislature for writing to me regarding the impacts of the coronavirus epidemic on victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, child abuse, and sexual assault in California. I appreciate the time you took to share your recommendations, and I welcome the opportunity to respond.

Please know that I share your concerns about the impact that this epidemic has on these vulnerable populations. In particular, survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault face unique challenges, as coronavirus isolation orders force some to stay at home with their abusers. The programs that assist survivors are already in need of more resources, and this pandemic is only increasing that pressure. That is why I recently called on the Trump administration to provide information on the steps they are taking to protect survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault during the pandemic. A copy of the letters I sent to the Office on Violence Against Women at the U.S. Department of Justice may be found at <https://sen.gov/N7XL> and <https://sen.gov/Q7YK>.

I was also proud to join my Congressional colleagues in passing the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* (Public Law 116-136), which the President signed into law on March 27, 2020. The *CARES Act* provides \$45 million for the *Family Violence Prevention and Services Act* (Public Law 98-457) grants, which can be used to provide temporary housing assistance to the victims of family, domestic, and dating violence.

The *CARES Act* also includes several funding provisions to help homeless populations, including abuse victims who flee their homes. The law provides \$5 billion for the Community Development Block Grant and \$4 billion in

Homeless Assistance Grants, which can be used by state and local governments to address the needs of those who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness due to coronavirus.

A summary of the *CARES Act*, including additional information about provisions that support the needs of state and local governments, can be accessed here: <https://sen.gov/O01X>. You can also read my full comments on this law at the following website: <https://sen.gov/8P7P>.

I will keep your thoughts in mind as I continue to monitor the implementation of the *CARES Act* and as Congress considers additional legislation to provide desperately needed relief to Americans impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Again, thank you for writing. If I can be of further assistance to you or your office, please do not hesitate to have your staff contact Lindsay Erickson or Brent Palmer in my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 224-6443 or (202) 224-2287.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

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