



Background on Tax Bill, Fix NICS Act and Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act

Tax Bill

Earlier in the month, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a tax bill that could be harmful for survivors of domestic violence in a number of ways. We are urging Senators to vote NO on a similar bill. The tax proposals could increase the deficits by up to \$1.5 trillion over ten years. If Congress does not enact offsetting budgetary savings or provide some other remedy, enactment of the tax bill might trigger massive automatic program cuts every year for the next ten years. The tax bill's deficit effects could trigger Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (SPAYGO) cuts that could lead to outright elimination of many vital federal programs. The cuts could impact the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) fund directly. Additionally, reduced federal revenue will create pressure to make serious cuts across federal discretionary funding streams. All programs will be vulnerable to cuts, including safety net programs and victim services. We are also concerned that many of the proposals negatively impact lower and middle income families through increased tax burdens. Finally, we are concerned that the repeal of the individual mandate will reduce healthcare coverage for survivors, as well as lower income individuals and families. We oppose this bill.

Fix NICS Act

Federal law currently prohibits convicted abusers and those under an order of protection for domestic violence from possessing a firearm. Unfortunately, lax implementation has undermined the background check system that would alert gun sellers to refuse the sale. No such flag was raised to prevent the Sutherland Springs, TX shooter from buying the weapon he used to murder 26 people. The Fix NICS Act would hold accountable federal agencies that fail to upload relevant records, and would reward states that comply with their NICS implementation plans through federal grant preferences and incentives. It would create a domestic violence initiative to ensure that abusers' records are entered into the system. We resoundingly support this bill!

Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act

The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act forces states with strong concealed carry laws to honor permits from states with weak or non-existent concealed carry laws. Dangerous abusers would be able to legally cross state lines by using a concealed carry firearms permit from another state, and it would have to be recognized as valid in the state of travel. We unequivocally oppose this bill.