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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2022

U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN COMMEMORATES SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Every April, the Department of Justice and U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Wisconsin join survivors, advocates, and communities nationwide in observing Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. Sexual violence is far too prevalent, and it is important to not only to raise awareness of the myriad forms of sexual violence, but to engage in meaningful prevention efforts, take action to hold offenders accountable, and care for survivors in a trauma-informed manner.

This year, United States Attorney Richard G. Frohling joins the Department of Justice and the [Office on Violence Against Women](#) (OVW) in applauding the passage of the [Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2022](#) (VAWA 2022), which treats sexual assault as the serious violation it is and creates new programs and initiatives that provide survivors of sexual violence with increased access to services and justice. For example, VAWA 2022 expands outreach to survivors in underserved communities, including by improving access to sexual assault medical forensic examinations for survivors in rural areas, providing community-specific services for LGBT survivors, and restoring tribes' jurisdiction to prosecute non-Indian perpetrators of sexual violence and sex trafficking, among certain other offenses committed on tribal lands.

"The U.S. Attorney's Office is committed to working with our federal, state, local, and tribal partners to hold individuals accountable for sexual violence - including prosecuting offenders in federal court whenever possible," said U.S. Attorney Frohling. "Just as importantly, everyone in the U.S. Attorney's Office is committed to doing whatever it takes to support, assist, and help survivors of this type of violence as these cases move forward in the pursuit of justice."

"During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, and every month, OVW-funded programs across the nation provide essential services to survivors of sexual assault, responding to their needs, helping them heal, and supporting them as they pursue the justice they seek," said OVW Principal Deputy Director Allison Randall. "The impact of sexual violence is felt by the entire community and can devastate survivors' lives, which is why it is critical that VAWA 2022 strengthens not just services and justice interventions but also prevention."

OVW funds resources in every jurisdiction, and the state of Wisconsin was awarded \$8,048,252.00 in 2021. OVW provides leadership in developing the nation's capacity to reduce violence through the implementation of the Violence Against Women Act and subsequent legislation. Created in 1995, OVW administers financial and technical assistance to communities across the country that are developing programs, policies and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. In addition to overseeing federal grant programs, OVW undertakes initiatives in response to special needs identified by communities facing acute challenges. Learn more at www.justice.gov/ovw.

If you or someone you know is experiencing or has experienced sexual violence, you are not alone and there are many services available to help, including the [Sexual Assault Hotline](https://www.justice.gov/ovw/sexual-assault-hotline), 1-800-656-HOPE (4673), and the [StrongHearts Native Helpline](https://www.justice.gov/ovw/stronghearts-native-helpline), 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483). In addition, you can find a [local resources page on OVW's website](https://www.justice.gov/ovw/local-resources), which lists state sexual assault coalitions that can direct you to local resources and services, as well as opportunities to get involved.

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