

## CHAMPIONING CHANGE

Now more than ever, thoughtful, responsible public policy is the key to transforming the way our country addresses sexual violence. This campaign initiative will build coalitions and launch strategic efforts for survivor-led change across the country, protect vulnerable populations from sexual abuse, and ensure all survivors have access to critical care and services.

### THRIVE TOGETHER CHAMPIONING CHANGE: \$2M

## Protecting Vulnerable Populations & Preventing Abuse

Funding for the Championing Change initiative will help build coalitions and protect vulnerable populations from sexual abuse.

RAINN will enlist allies in priority states, working closely with law enforcement, prosecutors, sexual assault nurse examiners, victim advocates, local sexual assault service providers, and survivors to drive progress at the local and national level. Every nine minutes, child protective services substantiates, or finds evidence for, a claim of child sexual abuse.

### **Protecting children from sexual abuse:**

RAINN's policy team is part of a coalition of leading nonprofit organizations working with

congressional leaders in both parties to draft legislation to protect children from sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse. RAINN will prioritize solutions that focus on increasing capacity to interdict dual offenders and rescue children directly from harm.

**COVID-19:** RAINN created and shared a checklist of considerations for preventing and responding to sexual violence with government agencies at the federal, state, and local levels as they build and manage temporary medical facilities related to COVID-19. The guidance covers issues such as investigating sexual assault, forensic interviews for abused children, and ensuring the continuity of services such as sexual assault forensic exams during coronavirus-related closures. RAINN will ensure reporting mechanisms are in place and the safety of children remains top of mind for authorities during these challenging times.



## Ensuring Access to Resources

Funding for the Championing Change initiative will ensure all survivors have access to critical care and services.

RAINN will continue to create and advocate for programs to do the following:



- Expand access to sexual assault forensic examinations, help develop national standards of care for survivors of sexual assault, and improve access to care for Native Americans and individuals living in rural communities. – **Survivors' Access to Supportive Care Act (SASCA)**
- Support and maximize the use of DNA evidence to bring perpetrators to justice. – **Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI)**
- Push Congress to prioritize funding that helps eliminate the rape kit backlog, ultimately holding more rapists accountable and giving all victims an equal chance for justice.
- Push Congress to prioritize financial reimbursement to victims for expenses that resulted from a crime, such as medical costs, mental health counseling, or lost wages. – **Crime Victim Compensation.**

## Supporting Survivors & Seeking Justice

Funding for the Championing Change initiative will ensure justice for survivors.

For more than 25 years, RAINN has worked tirelessly to improve the criminal justice system's response to sexual violence. RAINN will continue to help create and advocate for laws and regulations that make communities safer, hold more perpetrators accountable for their crimes, and give all victims an equal chance for justice.

- Rape kit backlog/Debbie Smith Act
- Protecting children from exploitation and abuse
- Forensic nurses/SASCA
- Victims rights/Victims of Crime Act
- Protections for tribes and LGBTQ+ populations
- Statutes of limitations

