



**PRESS RELEASE**

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## Safe at Home Act Fails to Gain Traction in Congress

### *Proposed Legislation Failed to Protect Participants*

Today, the National Association of Confidential Address Programs (NACAP) announced that it will no longer be supporting the Safeguarding Addresses from Emerging (SAFE) at Home Act. In late 2017, when the SAFE at Home Act was first introduced, NACAP applauded Congress' effort to ensure the federal government recognized state Address Confidentiality Programs (ACP).

ACP programs help victims of domestic violence, sexual offenses, stalking, and other crimes from being located by the perpetrator through public records. Victims are provided a substitute address and confidential mail forwarding services. The original intent of the federal legislation was to reinforce these state level protections for victims of domestic violence and had bipartisan support, being introduced by Republican U.S. Senator Roy Blunt of Missouri and Democratic U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota.

Since introduction, NACAP along with the initial stakeholders from the Missouri and Minnesota Secretary of State's office reviewed and provided feedback on proposed sub-committee amendments in an attempt to strengthen the protections to victims. Regrettably, the legislation proposed in the U.S. House of Representatives failed to meet the safety of participants.

NACAP is thankful of Missouri Secretary Ashcroft and his staff for their leadership on the introduction of federal legislation to help survivors. And while NACAP finds the current legislation to be in direct conflict with the work state programs have done to help victims and survivors, we will continue to educate legislators and others on the importance of ACP programs. "We are more committed than ever to having the federal government recognize state ACP programs and will continue working with stakeholders to make that happen", said Dianna Umidon, NACAP President

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