

Summary: Security and Financial Empowerment (SAFE) for Survivors Act

September 2024

OVERVIEW OF THE SAFE FOR SURVIVORS ACT

Survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault often are forced to choose between their safety and their jobs because they fear they will be fired if they take time off from work to leave an abusive relationship or address the harms violence causes to them and their families. A 2018 survey of survivors found that nearly three in four respondents (74%) remained in abusive relationships due to financial insecurity.¹ To address this the SAFE for Survivors Act would help survivors keep their jobs while they seek safety and justice for themselves and their children.

Specifically, the Security and Financial Empowerment (SAFE) for Survivors Act:

1	Safe Leave From Work	Permits survivors who are employees to access up to 40 days of job guaranteed leave from work - 10 of which must be paid - to address GBV, including attending court proceedings, seeking legal assistance, healing from injuries, or relocating.
2	Employment Protections	Prohibits discrimination and retaliation, including termination from employment, of employees who are survivors of domestic and sexual violence and requires employers to provide reasonable accommodations at work to increase their safety and enable them to maintain employment.
3	Access to Unemployment Benefits	Allows victims in every state to access unemployment benefits if they are fired or forced to leave their job because of abuse.
4	Insurance Protections	Prohibits denial or restriction of insurance coverage based on the status of the applicant or insured regarding abuse or abuse-related claims, ensuring that victims are not punished for their abusers' crimes.

The SAFE for Survivors Act is cosponsored by: Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Representatives Debbie Dingell (MI-06), Gwen Moore (WI-04), Ann Kuster (NH-02), Delia C. Ramirez (IL-03), Mark Pocan (WI-02), Raul Grijalva (AZ-07), Barbara Lee (CA-12). For [more information](#) please contact Ana Van Balen at avanbalen@futureswithoutviolence.org or Kiersten Stewart at kstewart@futureswithoutviolence.org.

1. <https://iwpr.org/dreams-deferred-a-survey-on-the-impact-of-intimate-partner-violence-on-survivors-education-careers-and-economic-security/>