



Maintain OVW's Independence

What It Is

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has proposed consolidating the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) into a new, generalized Bureau of Justice Grants (BJG). DOJ says it will save money and cut red tape. The record says otherwise.

- ◆ VAWA (1994) and the Violence Against Women Office Act (2002) established OVW's independent, specialized role in DOJ.
- ◆ The **VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2022** went further, mandating OVW be "a separate and distinct office...not subsumed by any other office."
- ◆ OVW's Director, not a general grants bureau, should hold **final authority** over all OVW grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts.
- ◆ The proposal adds a new Assistant Attorney General layer between OVW and DOJ leadership, on top of what OJP already has.

1994

VAWA, OVW's founding federal law, is enacted.

2022

Independence is reaffirmed in VAWA reauthorization

>2x

OJP overhead vs. OVW's, per DOJ's own budget

Sample Call Script

"Hi, my name is [NAME] and I'm calling from [CITY/STATE]. I'm asking Senator/Representative [NAME] to oppose DOJ's plan to fold the Office on Violence Against Women into a general grants bureau. Congress already passed a law in 2022 requiring OVW to stay independent. I'm asking you to make sure DOJ follows it."

POLICY BRIEF

DOJ wants to fold OVW into a general grants bureau. Congress already said no **twice**.

Why It Matters

OVW is the federal government's specialized policy leader on gender-based violence — not just a grant processor. Its independence lets it coordinate directly with DOJ leadership, the FBI, ATF, and Tribal Nations on work that a generalist bureau cannot replicate.

Subsuming OVW also weakens the government-to-government Tribal consultation VAWA's Safety for Indian Women Act requires, and slows funding decisions survivors' services depend on.

Read [the full statement](#) from the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

The Ask

Tell Congress: keep OVW independent, as the law requires. This consolidation would mean undoing a law Congress itself strengthened in 2022.

Ranking Member Jamie Raskin and Rep. Lucy McBath made that case directly to Acting Attorney General Blanche. Read [their full letter here](#).

[Policy alert & call to action→](#)