



Legislative Newsletter

November 2023

Federal Issues

Safer Homes and Families Act

U.S. Representatives Emilia Sykes (OH-13) and Dave Joyce (OH-14) introduced the *Fair Social Security for Domestic Violence Survivors Act* this week. This bipartisan legislation would expand access to Social Security spousal benefits for individuals who divorce due to domestic abuse.

The *Fair Social Security for Domestic Violence Survivors Act* is part of the [Safer Homes and Families Act](#), a comprehensive legislative package introduced by Rep. Sykes last month to prevent domestic violence, protect and empower survivors, and keep families safe by:

- Banning the use of electronic devices to track people without their consent;
- Training healthcare providers to better identify and treat individuals who have experienced sexual assault, domestic violence, or dating violence; and
- Allowing individuals who are experiencing dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault to break their lease without adverse costs.

Teresa Stafford, CEO of Hope and Healing Survivor Resource Center in Summit and Medina Counties, joined Congresswoman Sykes for a [telephone townhall meeting](#) to discuss the legislation and local resources available to survivors.

United States v. Rahimi

The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in *United States v. Rahimi* next week. The court is being asked to decide whether a federal law that prohibits a person subject to a domestic violence civil protective order violates the Second Amendment. To listen to the audio live on Tuesday (Nov. 7), visit the Supreme Court's [website](#).

Neighborhood Homes Investment Act Support Letter

ODVN is supporting the Neighborhood Homes Investment Act, bipartisan legislation that establishes a federal tax credit for the construction or substantial rehabilitation of affordable, owner-occupied housing located in distressed urban, suburban, and rural neighborhoods. [Read letter...](#)

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