In late March, Congress finally approved the FY 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Bill (H.R. 1625, Public Law 115-141), with bipartisan support, providing funding for the federal governmental programs until September, 2018. GFWC joins many other women’s organizations in celebrating the increased funding for the programs serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating, and stalking.

FY 2018 Federal Funding Highlights include:

- Violence Against Women Programs from Department of Justice (DOJ): $492 million – highest funding level ever! Includes an additional $5 million for the rural grant program and an additional $5 million for the transitional housing grant program;

- Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) from DOJ: More than $4.4 billion, a $1.8 billion increase;

- First-ever funding stream for Tribal Victim Services from DOJ: approximately $130 million will be available from VOCA for Tribes to address services for victims of domestic and sexual violence, as well as other crimes;

- Family Violence Prevention Services Act programs from the Department of Health and Human Services: $160 million, including $5 million for more resources to serve tribal victims;

- Rape Prevention and Education Programs from the Department of Health and Human Services: increase of $5 million with directions to Centers for Disease Control to use the increased funding for state and local services; and

- First-time funding of $50 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to support rapid rehousing projects to serve victims and survivors of domestic violence.

This Omnibus Appropriations Bill also included Fix NICS (the National Instant Criminal Background Check System), which will strengthen the firearm background check system by incentivizing states to enter domestic violence records to ensure that domestic abusers do not have access to firearms.