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Dear Supporters,

Congress is listening!

On Monday, Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) introduced Senate Bill [S. 658, The Support for Survivors Act](#), which requires the DOD to establish a unified system to permanently store and retain digital records in all cases of military rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment, and allow lifetime access to these records by the survivor.

Under current DOD policy, data, forms, forensic evidence and even entire investigations are destroyed entirely in one to five years. This presents massive problems for servicemembers who later seek disability compensation from the Veterans Administration for PTSD or other health issues caused by sexual trauma, and for those who seek to pursue legal action against their perpetrator.

"On behalf of servicewomen and men across the country, we applaud Senator Klobuchar for her leadership on this issue," said Anu Bhagwati, a former Marine Corps Captain and executive director of the Service Women's Action Network. "Never again should a servicemember who has been a victim of military rape, sexual assault or sexual harassment have to hear that his or her records were lost or destroyed due to the serious level of incompetence in the current system."

SWAN first recommended permanent digital records retention during a March 2010 Congressional hearing, and has been instrumental in the creation of this legislation.

This legislation comes in the wake of Representative Chellie Pingree's (D-ME) introduction of [H.R. 930](#), legislation to help survivors of military sexual violence obtain their well-deserved disability benefits.

Your overwhelming support of SWAN's tireless work is sending a clear message to Congress that "business as usual" is no longer acceptable in cases of military rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment. We the People demand the DOD change for the better and treat our servicewomen and men with the respect they have earned.

You play a key part in the process. Please follow the progress of Representative Pingree's bill [H.R. 930](#) and Senator Klobuchar's bill [S. 658](#) at [popvox.com](#), and become involved by making a [\\$25 donation](#) to SWAN this month to help continue to drive much needed change within our military.

Donate Now

SWAN is a 501(c)3 organization that urgently needs your financial support. Your tax deductible donation will help SWAN ensure equality, fairness, and justice for women in the military and dramatically improve resources for women veterans.

www.servicewomen.org

