



December 19, 2011

Dear Senator:

We, the undersigned organizations, represent millions of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, and the professionals who serve them, throughout the United States and territories. On behalf of the victims we represent, we ask that you support the Violence Against Women Act's (VAWA) reauthorization.

VAWA's programs support state, tribal and local efforts to address the pervasive and insidious crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. These programs have made great progress towards keeping victims safe and holding perpetrators accountable. This critical legislation must be reauthorized to ensure a continued response to these crimes.

Since its original passage in 1994, VAWA has dramatically enhanced our nation's response to violence against women. More victims report domestic violence to the police and the rate of non-fatal intimate partner violence against women has decreased by 53%. The sexual assault services program in VAWA helps rape crisis centers keep their doors open to provide the frontline response to victims of rape. VAWA provides for a coordinated community approach, improving collaboration between law enforcement and victim services providers to better meet the needs of victims. These comprehensive and cost-effective programs not only save lives, they also save money. In fact, VAWA saved nearly \$12.6 billion in net averted social costs in just its first six years.

VAWA has unquestionably improved the national response to these terrible crimes. We urge you to support VAWA's reauthorization to build upon its successes and continue to enhance our nation's ability to hold perpetrators accountable and keep victims and their children safe from future harm.

We look forward to working with you throughout the reauthorization process. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Juley Fulcher with Break the Cycle at jfulcher@breakthecycle.org, Rob Valente with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges at robvalente@dvpolicy.com, or Terri Poore with the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence at tpoore@fcasv.org.

Sincerely,

9to5, National Association of Working Women
A CALL TO MEN
AAUW
Alianza-National Latino Alliance to End Domestic Violence
Alternatives to Family Violence

American Association of University Women
American Civil Liberties Union
American College of Nurse-Midwives

American Indian Housing Organization (AICHO)
American Probation and Parole Association

American Psychiatric Association
Americans Overseas Domestic Crisis Center
ASHA for Women
Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence
ASISTA Immigration Assistance

Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies
Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
Black Women's Health Imperative
Break the Cycle
Casa de Esperanza

Church of the Brethren
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Daughters of Penelope
Deaf Abused Women's Network
Disciples Justice Action Network

Disciples Women of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Domestic Violence Report
Feminist Majority/Feminist Majority Foundation
Futures Without Violence (formerly the Family Violence Prevention Fund)
General Federation of Women's Clubs
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.

Indian Law Resource Center
Institute on Domestic Violence in the African-American Community
International Association of Forensic Nurses
Japanese American Citizens League
Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Jewish Women International
Joyful Heart Foundation
Korean American Women In Need (KAN-WIN)
Legal Momentum
MANA – A National Latina Organization

Men Can Stop Rape
Men's Resources International
Mennonite Central Committee US
Methodist Federation for Social Action
National Alliance of Women Veterans, Inc

National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National American Indian Court Judges Association
National Association of Counties
National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators
National Center for Victims of Crime

National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence
National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs
National Congress of American Indians Violence Against Women Task Force

National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
National Council of Negro Women
National Council of Women's Organizations

National Council on Independent Living
National Dating Abuse Hotline
National Domestic Violence Hotline
National Domestic Violence Registry
National Housing Law Project

National Institute of Crime Prevention
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
National Legal Aid and Defender Association
National Network to End Domestic Violence

National Organization for Women
National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Resource Sharing Project
National Women's Political Caucus

NETWORK – A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Nursing Network on Violence Against Women International
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Praxis International
Range Women's Advocates
Rape Abuse and Incest National Network
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Security on Campus Inc.
Service Women's Action Network

Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States
Sisters in Sync

The Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation
Tribal Law and Policy Institute
Union for Reform Judaism
United Church of Christ
United Methodist Church (General Board of Church and Society)

Veteran Feminists of America
Voices of Men
Witness Justice
Women of Color Network
Women's Information Network

Women's Law Project
WomenEnabled
YWCA USA