



National Task Force
to End Sexual and
Domestic Violence Against Women

December 12, 2011

The Honorable FULL NAME
OFFICE ADDRESS
Washington, DC ZIP COE

Dear Senator/Representative LAST NAME:

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 63%. 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,

Alianza-National Latino Alliance to End Domestic Violence
Alternatives to Family Violence
American Association of University Women
American College of Nurse-Midwives
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
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

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
Legal Momentum
MANA – A National Latina Organization
Men Can Stop Rape
Mennonite Central Committee US

Methodist Federation for Social Action
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Association of Counties
National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators
National Center for Victims of Crime

National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs
National Congress of American Indians Violence Against Women Task Force

National Council of Jewish Women

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

National Dating Abuse Hotline
National Domestic Violence Hotline
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 Women's Political Caucus
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Resource Sharing Project
NETWORK – A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
9to5, National Association of Working Women

Nursing Network on Violence Against Women International
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Rape Abuse and Incest National Network
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Service Women's Action Network

Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States
Tribal Law and Policy Institute
Union for Reform Judaism
United Church of Christ
United Methodist Church (General Board of Church and Society)

Voices of Men
Witness Justice
Women's Information Network
Women's Law Project
Women of Color Network

YWCA USA