



**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT 2005**

**ENHANCED SERVICES FOR MILITARY VICTIMS  
OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

The reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA 2005) should incorporate the following:

**DEFENSE COMMISSION ON DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**

This provision would establish a Commission of appointed military leaders and civilian experts to ensure implementation of recommendations from past and present task forces on domestic violence and sexual assault, especially recommendations that address confidential services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Commission would maintain collaboration between civilian authorities and military installations in responding to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking and facilitate coordination between the Department of Defense and other federal agencies addressing violence against women. In addition, the Commission would supervise research, data, and evaluation activities, and review training and education programs. The Commission would also develop strategies for increasing community collaboration to enhance victim safety and services and to promote offender accountability.

**RESEARCH, DATA, AND EVALUATION**

This provision would ensure all research is reviewed by qualified military experts and civilian experts and published for accessibility. Research elements include: the capacity of military families and service members to access interventions, and the efficacy of batterer intervention programs.

**PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PREVENTION  
CAMPAIGN**

The Department of Defense, in consultation with the Commission, the Office of Violence Against Women in the Department of Justice and the Department of

Health and Human Services, should ensure a comprehensive public education and prevention campaign to reduce the incidents of domestic violence and sexual assault and to ensure awareness of services for victims and consequences for offenders.

**CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES BY  
HOTLINES**

The Department of Defense, in consultation with the Commission, would determine the appropriate contractual relationships with the National Domestic Violence Hotline, the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) and the American Women Overseas Hotline in order to support the availability of effective and anonymous or confidential information, referral and support for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

**SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINER  
PROGRAM**

The Department of Defense, in consultation with the Commission, should ensure the availability of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) to respond to any sexual assault victim seeking medical services.

**VICTIM ADVOCACY PROGRAM  
DEVELOPMENT**

The Department of Defense, in consultation with the Commission, should ensure the implementation of the Victim Advocacy Program to provide supportive, confidential services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, including service members and family members.

**The programs described here are proposals under consideration for inclusion in the VAWA reauthorization bill that Members of Congress will introduce in early 2005. As the bill has not been finalized, we cannot be certain that the proposals will be included as described in this document.**