



February 25, 2013
Please forward widely

Action Needed on House VAWA Substitute Bill

On Friday, February 22, Republican House leadership introduced a bill to reauthorize VAWA (a substitute to S. 47). This bill fails to adequately support victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and it leaves out a number of critical provisions that are needed to ensure that victims have access to much-needed services and support.

“We were extremely hopeful that House leadership would introduce a bill that would safely and effectively meet the needs of all victims,” said Kim Gandy, President of the National Network to End Domestic Violence. “Unfortunately, the House substitute introduced today fails to do so.” Read NNEDV’s full statement on the House bill [here](#).

The House may vote on their bill as early as Wednesday, February 27th. NNEDV and other organizations are urging members of Congress to vote against this bill as it currently stands.

Action Item:

- 1) Call the Capitol switchboard at 888.269.5702 and ask the operator to connect you to your Representative. If you don’t know who your Representative is, you can find out [here](#).
- 2) When you’re connected to their offices, tell the person who answers the phone:
 - I am a constituent from (city and state) and my name is _____.
 - I am calling about the bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act that was introduced by House Republican leadership last week.
 - This bill does not adequately serve all victims, nor does it safely and effectively meet their needs. I believe that it is still possible for the House to reach agreement on a strong, bipartisan bill – but this is not that bill. Therefore, I am asking Representative _____ to vote against this bill.

Also, the American Bar Association has compiled the legislative language of each VAWA reauthorization bill, as well as the current, existing law. Please bookmark this excellent resource:
http://www.americanbar.org/groups/domestic_violence/resources/resources_for_attorneys/legislation/vawa.html

Update on Funding and Sequestration

Fiscal Year 2013 Funding

Fiscal year 2013 federal domestic violence and sexual assault programs are currently funded through a continuing resolution (CR).

- The continuing resolution maintains Fiscal year 2012 funding levels for all government programs
- See [this chart](#) to see Fiscal Year 2012/2013 funding.
- The continuing resolution expires March 27, 2013. The House plans to be done with their bill by late February.
- It is likely that Congress will pass a year-long continuing resolution on March 1 – to fund all programs at FY 12 funding levels for the remainder of FY 2013
- No Fiscal Year 2013 funding has been released by the federal government. It will begin to be released when the year-long continuing resolution is finished.

Sequestration

- The Budget Control Act of 2011 included “sequestration” as a consequence if the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction did not result in enactment of deficit reduction of at least \$1.2 trillion by the end of December, 2011. What does Sequestration mean? It is a mandatory across-the-board-cut of all defense as well as non-defense discretionary program spending.
- Unfortunately the Joint Committee’s work was unsuccessful and the deficit reduction sequester of approximately \$109 billion had been slated to take place on January 2, 2013. However, the “Fiscal Cliff” deal agreed to by Congress at the end of 2012 moved the date to March 1, and reduced the spending cuts required by \$24 billion.
- As a result, in FY 2013, there are meant to be \$85 billion in spending cuts, in the first part of nine years’ worth of spending cuts in the Act. Right now, it is estimated that this would require a 5% across-the-board cut to all government programs without discretion from federal agencies. This includes VAWA, VOCA and FVPSA funding.
- VAWA would be cut by \$20 million; VOCA by \$37 million and FVPSA by \$6 million. We estimate that the cuts to VAWA and FVPSA would result in approximately 110,000 fewer victims being served. We don’t have an estimate for VOCA. (See Funding Challenges Factsheet available [here](#))

- Sequestration cuts will not impact money that has already been allocated to programs, even if it has not yet been drawn down. Sequestration will impact future allocations of government grants.
- **Outlook:** March 1st is quickly approaching. However, Senate Democrats will be introducing a bill that if passed would halt sequester. (<http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/budget/283209-senate-dems-unveil-110b-sequester-replacement-bill>). There is speculation that even if sequestration is enacted on March 1st, Congress may act in late March to delay it while they develop a better plan. We will keep you informed when information becomes more concrete.

What NNEDV is doing?

- Continuing to monitor the situation – learning the latest on plans to avoid the sequester and how, if enacted, it will impact programs.
- We developed the attached factsheet that includes the *estimated, potential* impact of Sequestration on VAWA and FVPSA. We have communicated these numbers to Congressional leaders.
- Continuing to lead the VAWA appropriations work – work with Congress and Administration to ensure that Appropriations are secure for VAWA, FVPSA and VOCA.
- Kim Gandy was invited to a White House meeting with Gene Sperling, *Director of the National Economic Council and Assistant to the President for Economic Policy*, to discuss the potential impact of sequestration on domestic violence programs.
- We have signed on to letters circulated by the Coalition for Housing and Community Development Funding, national criminal justice coalition, and the SAVE for All coalition.

What can you do?

Talk to your legislators about what the cuts to VAWA and FVPSA would mean to your community.

- Use the factsheets available [here](#), including the one-pager on the impact of funding cuts to DV programs
- Use details from [this article](#) (VAWA STOP formula grant cuts to each state) for your state
- Use numbers from [this report](#) – FVPSA page (page 33) – and multiply numbers by 5/8 to reflect updates in the sequester cut