VAWA Alert: Take Action Before Summer Recess Ends!

August 28, 2012

August is almost over and Members of Congress will be heading back to Washington in early September. It is critical that all of us continue to reach out to Members in their districts and tell them to get a final VAWA passed that protects all victims! If recent ill-informed comments about rape and sexual violence, now dominating the national political discussion, have shown us anything it’s that the reauthorization of VAWA must be a priority for our lawmakers now more than ever. (Check out this video where 1,200 advocates at the National Sexual Assault Conference tell Congress: "Rape is rape. Stand up for victims. Pass VAWA now!"). But Congress will only be in session for just a few weeks in September and then will go home the first of October and may not come back until after the election. Time is running out and they need to act quickly in September to get a final VAWA passed!

Click here for NCADV Congressional targets.

Below you will find steps to take action in your community:

**ACTION 1:** FIND YOUR CONGRESS PERSON AT A TOWN HALL, RALLY OR CAMPAIGNING ON THE STREETS AND ASK:

"What are you going to do to get a final VAWA passed that helps ALL victims?"

**ACTION 2:** CAN’T GET TO A TOWN HALL OR RALLY? CALL YOUR CONGRESS PERSON AND TELL THEM WHY VAWA IS SO IMPORTANT TO YOU!

Find your Congress Member here:

http://www.civilrights.org/action_center/keep-up-the-pressure-in.html. Tell them why VAWA is critical to you, your loved ones, family and friends and ask them "What are you going to do to get a final VAWA passed?"

**ACTION 3:** CAN’T FIND YOUR CONGRESS MEMBER IN PUBLIC? VISIT THEM IN THEIR DISTRICT OFFICE WHILE THEY ARE HOME!

We all know that passing a VAWA that includes ALL victims is the right thing to do — please spend the last two weeks of the Congressional recess telling your Senators and Representative to get VAWA done. Ask them in their office, on Twitter, through a letter to the editor or on Facebook "What are you going to do to get
ACTION 4: GOT A GREAT PROGRAM SERVING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE? INVITE YOUR SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS TO COME VISIT YOUR PROGRAM!

We all know the power of seeing what victims are really going through and Members of Congress need to see it for themselves. Chances are that they will want the press to know about their visit and that’s another opportunity for you to get the message out to the public about the need for VAWA.

Please click here to find tips for activism in August including letters to the editor, how to have an in district meeting, tweets, Facebook posts, and letters to the editor.

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Check our website for fact sheets, press coverage, support letters and updates: www.4vawa.org.

Follow us on twitter at @NTFVAWA and "like" our Facebook page where you can find a toolkit and other action and information items: http://on.fb.me/NTF_Facebook_page.

Don't forget to tweet about VAWA using the hashtags #ReauthorizeVAWA, #RealVAWA and #VAWA.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tralonne Shorter at publicpolicy@ncadv.org. If you aren’t on one of the VAWA email lists or want to add members of your staff or state/community leaders to our grassroots alerts e-mailing list, send names and contact information including email to ntfvawaalerts@icasa.org.