October 2, 2012

Re: October Action on VAWA

Hello all,

Happy DVAM! It has been great to see so many wonderful DVAM kick-off events this year! Want to add a federal policy element to your work? Here’s how:

**Requested Action**
Email, call, tweet, or tell your Members of Congress (who are now back in their districts until after the elections) this simple message:

> “October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We all play a role in ending domestic violence. Congress’s role is to pass VAWA – lifesaving legislation that has transformed the way our nation addresses violence against women. It is essential that a strong, bipartisan VAWA, that safely and effectively meets the needs of all victims, is promptly reauthorized after the elections. **Will you commit to passing VAWA as a matter of priority during the lame duck session?**”

Pass this on to your members and supporters, use the tweets below, post on Facebook/websites, and/or have this conversation when you see your Members of Congress at events.

- Oct is #DVAM2012. Do your part to end violence against women. Let’s pass #VAWA!
- Support #DVAM2012! Commit to passing a #VAWA that safely and effectively meets the needs of all victims.
- Fact: #VAWA saves lives! Reauthorization must be a priority after the elections

**The Background**
Despite our collective hard work urging Congress to pass VAWA, they did not do so before they left for recess. As you know, passing major legislation can be contentious in an election year and VAWA’s reauthorization became more politicized than it ever had been in the past. There is still an opportunity, however, for Congress to reauthorize VAWA after the elections (e.g. during the “lame duck” session). With the combination of additional pressure from you throughout October and the work of NNEDV and others at the national level, we believe that it is very likely that Congress will act on VAWA upon their return.
So keep up the pressure right through this election cycle—urge your Member of Congress to prioritize post-election passage of a VAWA reauthorization bill that safely and effectively protects all victims.

Thanks,

The Policy Team

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