February 13, 2012

Please forward widely!

Great job all! Since our last alert Thursday we have had 5 additional Senators sign on in support of VAWA bringing the total at this writing to 46. We only need 2 more to reach our goal of 10 new sponsors by Valentine’s Day. We can do it! Check out 4vawa.org and see who needs to hear from you!

Also, be sure and thank your Senators who are sponsors and be sure and thank our “new arrivals:” Senators Bennet (CO), Baucus (MT), Conrad(ND), Udall (NM) and McCaskill (MO).

TAKE ACTION TODAY!

Suggested actions for this week include:

1. Let's get every Senator we can to support S. 1925!
2. Participate in the #ReauthorizeVAWA Twitter Carnival on Wednesday at noon eastern! Some people are tweeting for VAWA non-stop which is more like a Mardi Gras or “occupy Twitter” event.
3. Call your representative and urge him/her to support the real VAWA in the House!

Action 1: Call your Senators (http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm) TODAY to co-sponsor S. 1925:

When you call, tell your Senator that only S. 1925 represents real, critical, lifesaving protections for ALL victims and all other versions fall short. Check out our new talking points about why S. 1925 is the only REAL VAWA. Go to www.thomas.loc.gov and type in the bill S.1925 for a list of sponsors and thank your Senator if he/she is already a co-sponsor. Don't panic if the latest sponsors aren't there - it takes a few days for their names to be posted.

There are 11 Senators who have been VAWA sponsors in the past. Maybe they just need to be reminded and for sure they need to be persuaded. VAWA programs and services are under-funded and under attack. It's time to step up for victims of sexual assault and dating, domestic and stalking violence. Please reach out to these Senators and their staff today: Carper, Thomas (D - DE), Cochran, Thad (R - MS), Cornyn, John (R - TX), Grassley, Chuck (R - IA), Hatch, Orrin (R - UT), Hutchison, Kay Bailey (R - TX), Inouye, Daniel (D - HI), Nelson, Ben (D - NE), Nelson, Bill (D - FL), Pryor, Mark (D - AR), Snowe, Olympia (R - ME).

There are 6 new Senators who OUGHT to be sponsors of VAWA. Talk to them and their staff and tell them about how VAWA has helped promote awareness and support services and needs them to be champions - and sponsors! Please contact them today: Brown, Sherrod (D - OH), Merkley, Jeff (D - OR), Udall, Mark (D - CO), Warner, Mark (D - VA), Webb, Jim (D - VA).

There are some Senators who have expressed interest in VAWA and have been supportive of
program funding and services in the past. Ask them to step up to this crisis. Alexander, Lamar (R - TN), Enzi, Michael (R - WY), Graham, Lindsey (R - SC), Heller, Dean (R - NV), Kyl, Jon (R - AZ), Lugar, Richard (R - IN), and Manchin, Joe (D - WV).

**Action 2: Participate in the #ReauthorizeVAWA Twitter Carnival on Wednesday, February 15th at 12pm EST, 11am CST, 10am MST, 9am PST:**

HUGE thanks to all who all who have been tweeting about VAWA. **Now we need to make #ReauthorizeVAWA a trending topic on twitter.** In order to do that we need a lot of people to tweet messages including the hashtag #ReauthorizeVAWA in a SHORT amount of time. The bigger a splash we can make by sharing this, the better!

You can help us trend #ReauthorizeVAWA by tweeting this message on Wednesday, February 15th at noon EST:

*We urge all Senators to support S. 1925 and #ReauthorizeVAWA now!* [4vawa.org](http://4vawa.org). If you can't/won't be in front of your computers at noon you can still send out the post on twitter at noon by signing up for [http://www.hootsuite.com](http://www.hootsuite.com) and scheduling your message to post on February 15th at noon (just make sure you’re time settings are for EST). During the Twitter Carnival, you should also retweet and respond to the twitters of others - always including #ReauthorizeVAWA.

**Thanks for the terrific tweets already out there!**

**Action 3: Call your Representative TODAY and tell her/him to support REAL VAWA reauthorization** ([http://www.house.gov/representatives/](http://www.house.gov/representatives/)):

The House needs hear a loud and clear message from advocates NOW that only the language in S. 1925 represents REAL VAWA reauthorization. Anything less fails to meet the needs of ALL victims. Use our talking points ([http://4vawa.org/pages/s1925-is-the-real-vawa](http://4vawa.org/pages/s1925-is-the-real-vawa)) on this issue when you make your call.

To see if your Senator has signed on to VAWA, go to [http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php](http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php) and type in S. 1925 in the bill search box.

Check our website for updates: [www.4vawa.org](http://www.4vawa.org).

Check out and “like” our Facebook page where you can find a toolkit and other action and information items: [http://on.fb.me/NTF_Facebook_page](http://on.fb.me/NTF_Facebook_page).

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 Sean Black, sblack@icasa.org.

Thank you,
NCADV and NTF