February 20, 2012

Please forward widely!

We reached our Valentine’s Day goal of adding 10 new co-sponsors to S. 1925! Our next goal is to get to 60 before March 20th—the first day of spring. And we added 5 more senators last week, so we are only 7 senators shy of our goal! We can do it! Check out 4vawa.org to monitor our progress. Also, be sure to thank our “new arrivals:” Senators Warner (VA), Brown (OH), Inouye (HI), Merkely (OR), and Bill Nelson (FL).

TAKE ACTION TODAY!

Suggested actions for this week include:

1. Let’s get to 60 co-sponsors of S. 1925! Both the House and Senate are “home” this week. Touch base with them at town halls, meetings or events and mention VAWA.

2. Ask community businesses, faith communities and schools to sign onto our VAWA support letter

3. Thank representatives who participated in the House Judiciary Committee oversight hearing and contact all Representatives at home to urge them to support the REAL VAWA!

Action 1: Ask in person, visit their local offices or 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 (http://4vawa.org/pages/s1925-is-the-real-vawa) 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 8 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), Pryor, Mark (D - AR), Snowe, Olympia (R - ME)

There is one new Senator who OUGHT to be a sponsor of VAWA! Please contact him today: Udall, Mark (D - CO),

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), Ayotte, Kelly - (R - NH), 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: Add your organization and also ask businesses, faith communities and schools in your area to sign on in support of VAWA!

VAWA makes a difference to every aspect of our communities. Our sign-on letter (http://4vawa.org/pages/vawa-supporters) has over 800 signatures. But we want to show even more clearly how broadly our communities support VAWA. Send you sign ons to ReauthorizeVAWA@gmail.com.

Action 3: Thank Representatives present at the House Judiciary Hearing on Thursday, February 16 and ask them to support REAL VAWA reauthorization!

On Thursday, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security held an oversight hearing of the Office on Violence Against Women. All members present (Chair Sensenbrenner (R-WI), Minority Leader Scott (D-VA), and Reps. Poe (R-TX), Adams (R-FL), Gowdy (R-SC), Chu (D-CA), Johnson (D-GA), and Chaffetz (R-UT)) had something positive to say about VAWA. We were all particularly moved by Rep. Gowdy’s statement. You can view the webcast at: http://judiciary.house.gov/hearings/Hearings%202012/hear_02162012.html (go to 1:05 to listen to Congressman Gowdy's comments). Listen to your representative's testimony, thank them for attending the hearing, and urge them to support the REAL VAWA!

Whether your Rep is on the list above or not, visit him/her in district or call the district office TODAY (http://www.house.gov/representatives/) with this message: “Support REAL VAWA reauthorization!”
The House needs to 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) 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 and type in S. 1925 in the bill search box. The Senate is home next week so any new sponsors will not be added to this list until the week of February 27. Check www.4vawa.org for a list also.

Check our website for fact sheets, press coverage, support letters and updates: 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

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.