August 7, 2012

Ask Your Congressional Leaders: What are you doing to get a final VAWA passed that helps ALL victims?

It’s August and your Congressional leaders are home and it’s time to find them in your state or hometown and ask them ONE QUESTION: What are you doing to get a final VAWA passed that helps ALL victims?

Because of your advocacy and pressure, there was some movement last week before Congress left town. Speaker Boehner appointed conferees to a non-existent conference committee and Senator Grassley refused Senator Patty Murray’s offer to send the Senate VAWA to the House. Unless a miracle happens this week OR we put on the heat, Congress will be home for the rest of August until after Labor Day without having passed a bipartisan VAWA that protects all victims. We need to tell Congress this is outrageous!

For nearly two months Congress has done NOTHING to finish the job and get VAWA signed into law. Congress will 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 elections. We have no time to lose.

**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](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 - spend the month of August telling your Congress Member to get VAWA done before they go on vacation. Ask them in their office, on twitter, through a letter to the editor or on Facebook “What are you going to do to get a final VAWA passed?"

**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.

Attached are some 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. You can also find these on 4VAWA.org at http://4vawa.org/pages/tips-for-advocacy-in-august!

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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 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 ntvawaalerts@icasa.org.