August 1, 2012

Before the August recess, contact Congress to ensure that a final VAWA is swiftly passed

This Monday Speaker Boehner named eight members of the House of Representatives to serve on nonexistent conference committee on VAWA. Unfortunately this is not a meaningful step forward for VAWA and Congress continues to hide behind procedural issues that could easily be resolved. However, Speaker Boehner’s actions show us that our strategy is working! Because of you, Congress is feeling the pressure to pass a final VAWA bill that protects all victims, and we can't stop now! We need to let them know that the safety of victims cannot be held hostage to political wrangling and procedural excuses.

This week, before Congress goes on August recess, please take the following actions to ensure that a final VAWA is swiftly passed.

ACTION ONE : CALL THE POTENTIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS – ESPECIALLY IF YOU LIVE IN FLORIDA, CALIFORNIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA, WISCONSIN, OR TEXAS - AND TELL THEM:

“I have read and heard you say that you care about preventing sexual and domestic violence and providing crucial services and legal justice for all victims. Please match your words with your deeds and make sure Congress considers the Violence Against Women Act’s reauthorization THIS year. To do this, both the House and Senate bills must be considered as part of any future negotiations. I urge you to get a final VAWA that protects all victims passed this year. Anything else is unacceptable to your constituents and victims all across the nation.”

FL: Representative Sandy Adams, 202-225-2706
CA: Representative Bono Mack, 202 225-5330
SC: Representative Trey Gowdy, 202 225-6030
NY: Representative Nan Hayworth, 202 225-5441
WA: Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers, 202 225-2006
ACTION TWO: CALL HOUSE LEADERS AND ASK THEM TO ACCEPT THE SENATE BILL, WORK OUT THE PROCEDURAL BLUE SLIP PROBLEM, REPLACE SHOWMANSHPH WITH CRAFTSMANSHIP AND GET A REAL VAWA PASSED. CALL THE SENATE LEADERS AND DEMAND THEY WORK THIS OUT TOO. VAWA MUST PASS THIS YEAR OR ALL THE IMPORTANT IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE LOST.

Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), (202) 225-0600
Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA), (202) 225-4000
Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), (202) 225-0100
Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), (202) 224-3542
Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), (202) 224-2541
Chair of the Democratic Conference Senator Chuck Schumer, (202) 224-6542

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 ntfvawaalerts@icasa.org.