Make Your Voice Heard: Speak Out for VAWA with Traditional and Social Media!

Help us create a buzz about the need for an inclusive Violence Against Women Act by speaking out through traditional and social media. Here are a few ideas:

- **Generate Letters-to-the-Editor Supporting an Inclusive VAWA**
  
  Urge your members and supporters to write letters to the editor of their local papers. Below is a sample letter you can share with advocates across the country.

  
  **To The Editor:**

  Your recent story [insert headline and date] did a wonderful job of underscoring how pervasive domestic violence is. In fact, violence against women and children affects everyone in [name of local community] in some way. In 1994, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was a giant step forward for our nation. Its passage meant that our federal government finally acknowledged that domestic and sexual violence cause tremendous harm, and put resources into helping victims. Millions of families are better off as a result.

  Now, the time has come to again reauthorize this critical legislation. Evidence shows that VAWA is working. Over the last 15 years, domestic and sexual violence have declined. But there is more work to do. On average, each day current and former boyfriends and husbands murder three women in America and several hundred people are raped or sexually assaulted. Countless children witness this violence.

  Unfortunately, though both the House and Senate have passed legislation to reauthorize VAWA, the process has stalled due to substantial differences between the bills. While the Senate-passed bill takes a huge step forward for vulnerable victims, the House-passed proposal includes dangerous provisions which fundamentally alter and weaken key tenets of VAWA and does not address the most urgent needs of victims.

  There is still time, however, for Congress to send President Obama a VAWA that protects all victims. Congress must put the needs of victims first by quickly agreeing to an inclusive VAWA, like the bipartisan Senate-passed bill.

  **Sincerely,**

  [Name, Title, Organization, Contact Info]
Take to the Twittersphere!
Take over your organization’s Twitter account (or use your own) to share your support for a strong, inclusive VAWA. Below are a few sample tweets, but feel free to be creative—just remember to use the hashtags #ReauthorizeVAWA, #RealVAWA and #VAWA. And make sure you follow us @NTFVAWA

@[Rep. or Sen. Twitter handle] act now to #ReauthorizeVAWA! Send a strong & inclusive bill to the President’s desk to sign! We can’t afford to wait!

Congress must #ReauthorizeVAWA to protect #LGBTQ victims, immigrants, Native women, & minorities. S 1925, the #RealVAWA, serves all victims!

@SpeakerBoehner We can’t wait any longer! Act now & send @WhiteHouse an inclusive #VAWA that protects all victims of violence!

@NancyPelosi We can’t wait any longer! Act now & send @WhiteHouse an inclusive #VAWA that protects all victims of violence!

@SenatorReid We can’t wait any longer! Act now & send @WhiteHouse an inclusive #VAWA that protects all victims of violence!

@McConnellPress We can’t wait any longer! Act now & send @WhiteHouse an inclusive #VAWA that protects all victims of violence!