Tell Congress they have to do their job and pass a final VAWA before they go on vacation!

Today’s *New York Times* Op Ed said it all: “With Congress just days away from its August break, House Republicans have to decide which is more important: protecting victims of domestic violence or advancing the harsh antigay and anti-immigrant sentiments of some on their party’s far right. At the moment, harshness is winning.” We need to tell Congress this is outrageous! Congress must do its job: if they don’t pass VAWA, they can’t go home. As The Hill editorial today tells Congress: do your job—you’re lucky to have one.

Congress has just a few days to get to work on VAWA before they leave for the entire month of August – and then only a few short days in session before the congressional session ends on October 1. Please take 5 minutes to call, write or tweet – to your own Representative and both Senators in your state!

For nearly two months, since the April passage of a Senate version and a May House-passed version of VAWA and Congress has done NOTHING to finish the job and get VAWA signed into law. Congress will go home the first of October and may not come back until after the elections. We have no time to lose.

Call your legislators and write letters to the editor, especially if you are in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, or Wisconsin. Let them hear what you have to say before they go on vacation!

We need to let Congress know that *everyone* loses if VAWA isn’t finished—that *all* victims need the many improvements in this version of VAWA.

LIKE TO CALL? ACTION: CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS AND TELL THEM:
“We need you to stop fussing over procedural issues and do your job and pass VAWA. If you don’t, ALL victims of violence will lose critical protections, including:

- protections for victims of dating and sexual violence at colleges and universities, who often lack access to the justice system simply because these crimes occur on campus.
• **housing protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.**

• **helpful expansions from both the Senate and the House bills that would provide crucial new protections for victims of sexual violence.**

• **valuable new prevention programs that can reduce the likelihood of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking from occurring in the future.**

• **Many victims, including Native women, immigrants, LGBT people and communities of color, would go without life-saving protection from violence.**

>This is unacceptable. You must pass VAWA before the recess.”

**The Members below need encouragement to stand strong for a “real” VAWA. If they are your member of Congress, call them at their direct numbers below:**

AK Senator Murkowski, 202-224-6665  
AZ Senator McCain, 202-224-2235  
CA Representative Gary Miller, 202-225-3201  
CA Representative Lungren, 202-225-5716  
CA Representative Denham, 202-225-4540  
CA Representative Bilbray, 202-225-0508  
CA Representative Bono Mack, 202-225-5330  
CO Representative Coffman, 202-225-7882  
CO Representative Tipton, 202-225-4761  
FL Representative West, 202-225-3026  
ID Senator Crapo, 202-224-6142  
IL Representative Walsh, 202-225-3711  
IL Representative Johnson, 202-225-2371  
IN Senator Coats, 202-224-5623  
LA Senator Vitter, 202-224-4623  
MA Senator Brown, 202-224-4543  
ME Senator Collins, 202-224-2523  
ME Senator Snowe, 202-224-5344  
MI Representative Benishek, 202-225-4735  
NH Representative Guinta, 202-225-5456  
NH Senator Ayotte, 202-224-3324  
NV Senator Heller, 202-224-6244  
NV Representative Heck, 202-225-3252  
NY Representative Buerkle, 202-225-3701  
NY Representative Grimm, 202-225-3371  
NY Representative Hayworth, 202-225-5441  
ND Senator Hoeven, 202-224-2551  
OH Representative Gibbs, 202-225-6265  
OH Representative Johnson, 202-225-5705  
OH Representative Renacci, 202-225-3876  
OH Senator Portman, 202-224-3353
LIKE TO WRITE? ACTION: WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR – OR GET YOUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT, RELIGIOUS, HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND ELECTED COMMUNITY LEADERS AND SURVIVORS IN YOUR AREA TO DO THE SAME. Congress will be home soon and it's time to get those letters to the editor and Op Eds in your local papers. Here’s a sample letter to the editor:

To the Editor:

Congress is failing victims of violence. They have done nothing to pass the Violence Against Women Act in the past two months. VAWA is critical to our community because you're your own thoughts here. Without this critical law, victims of violence will lose life-saving protections, including services for dating and sexual violence victims on college campuses, housing protections, protections for victims of sexual violence and prevention programs. We cannot stand for a Congress that refuses to protect victims of violence. It's simply unacceptable. Congress must act now and pass a law that protects all victims of violence.

Also email, tweet and put on Facebook your outrage. The attached document makes it easy. Take 30 seconds and change your Facebook status to “OUTRAGED that Congress has not passed a final VAWA,” or “Incomprehensible that Congress can’t get VAWA done.”

We all know that passing a VAWA that includes ALL victims is the right thing to do – spend these last few days telling your Congress Member to get VAWA done before they go on vacation.

###

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 following hashtags:

#ReauthorizeVAWA  #RealVAWA  #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.