Tell Congress to send a strong, bipartisan VAWA to the President!

The National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women, a diverse coalition of thousands of national, state and local organizations and individuals across the country unified by our commitment to end violence against women, urges Congress to rise above the political bickering, move swiftly to conference, and send the President a strong, bipartisan Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) reauthorization bill that protects ALL vulnerable victims. The Senate passed the bill 68-31 and in the House we narrowly lost a vote, 222-205, to defeat the unacceptable Adams version of VAWA. We have shown that our grassroots advocates and professionals in communities all across the nation are serious and dedicated to passing a "real VAWA" for all victims and we won't stop until this is accomplished.

ACTION: PLEASE CONTACT – BY PHONE, EMAIL OR VISIT IN-PERSON AT THE DC OR DISTRICT OFFICE – YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES. Thank them for their support or let them know of your disappointment, but in either case tell them: (Use these links to find contact information for your Representatives and your Senators.)

I/we urge you to encourage your party’s leaders to move swiftly to a conference or agreement on VAWA and send the President a strong, bipartisan Violence Against Women Act reauthorization bill that protects all vulnerable victims. For nearly 20 years, Congress has recognized the severity of violence against women and our need for this landmark federal law's comprehensive approach. VAWA truly provides life-saving protections and services needed by victims and their families. It is unacceptable that this law has become politicized while three women a day are still killed by an intimate partner. Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence need a VAWA law that does not roll back protections for immigrant women and their families; includes protections for all victims, including the LGBT community and Native women; and directs resources to this urgent task in the most effective way possible. VAWA must also include the strongest protections for victims on campus and in public housing; protect the ability of criminal justice officials and community stakeholders to provide input to the state grant STOP planning process; and be free of overly burdensome and bureaucratic requirements for victim services providers struggling to be present for every victim every day. I strongly urge Congress to quickly move past politics and send a VAWA reauthorization bill to the President that he can immediately sign.

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We've had over 40,000 visits to our website! 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 Sean Black, sblack@icasa.org.