ASK YOUR CONGRESS PERSON: “WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO PASS A FINAL VAWA?”
Congressional leaders are home, in their districts, getting ready for elections. They will be at town halls, rallies, and generally out and about campaigning. We want every Congress person to answer the question “What have YOU done to pass a final VAWA?” We want every Congress person to understand the urgent need to get this done when they get back from the August recess. You can make that happen by asking one question every time you see your elected officials at public events.

LIKE TO TWEET? ACTION: TWEET THESE – ESPECIALLY THE ONES FOR YOUR STATE!
Use any of the below, but make sure you include the twitter handle (listed by state) of your state representative.

General VAWA Tweets

Congressional Leadership Twitter Handles:
@NancyPelosi
@SenatorReid
@McConnellPress
@johnboehner

Look up the twitter handle for your state representative HERE

Add your name to the 7500 ppl on the petition to tell @SpeakerBoehner to end delay and pass Senate’s #RealVawa! http://chn.ge/OyuCov

“The support and services I received gave me my life back” -@itsgabrielleu, actress & survivor. Support #vawa4all so others can live

“She knew that she had to get out of the relationship for her safety and her children” –Danielle. Support #vawa4all 4vawa.org

@johnboehner, HR4970 is not the #RealVAWA. #VAWA must protect all victims of violence! #vawa4all
## State-by-State Tweets

### Alaska

**Ester**

A native woman from AK was sexually assaulted by her cousin when she was only 14! Support #vawa4all

4vawa.org

“My older cousin would sexually abuse me...I thought it was my fault...I had no power. I had no control.” – Donna, AK

#vawa4all

“The sexual abuse, had gone 2 the very core of my human spirit and it had taken away who I was, who I was meant 2 be” – Donna, AK #vawa4all

“[Sexual Abuse] is not a racial story – it affects every nationality, every tribe” – Donna, native woman, AK #vawa4all

“My father found out about the rape and he blamed me for what happened” – native woman, AK. Support #vawa4all 4vawa.org

### Arizona

@SenJonKyl, @SenJohnMcCain, @RepRaulGrijalva, @RepGosar, @RepTrentFranks, @benquayle, @RepDavid, @JeffFlake,

@SenJohnMcCain plz share Jenny in AZ’s story: “Even today, I look behind the door every time I enter a bedroom”

http://bit.ly/MABIX0 #VAWA

### California

@SenatorBoxer, @askgeorge, @MaxineWaters, @RepMikeHonda, @RepLRichardson, @NancyPelosi, @RepAdamSchiff, @RepCardoza, @LorettaSanchez, @RepSpeier, @RepBecerra, @RepJoeBaca, @CongBobFilner, @BradSherman, @gracenapolitano, @RepSamFarr, @RepJudyChu, @RepKarenBass, @RepHowardBerman, @RepLynnWoolsey, @RepAnnaEshoo, @RepBarbaraLee, @DorisMatsui, @RepLindaSanchez, @RepMcClintock, @GOPWhip, @eltongallegly24, @BuckMcKeon, @RepEdRoyce, @RepJerryLewis, @NancyPelosi, He tried 2 carry out a murder-suicide plan after physically & emotionally abusing Andrea, a CA imm.

Will u support #vawa4all?

@NancyPelosi Jorge pushed Gisela from CA to the floor, pointed a gun at her & shot a window. Immigrants r victims too. Will u support #vawa4all?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Twitter Accounts</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>@MarkUdall, @SenBennetCO, @RepDianaDeGette, @RepPerlmutter, @RepTipton, @repcorygardner, @RepMikeCoffman</td>
<td>“Rape Assistance Volunteers told me it wasn’t my fault. I can now look @ myself in the mirror.” –Leanna of CO. #vawa4all helps survivors</td>
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<td>Delaware</td>
<td>@ChrisCoons, @JohnCarneyDE</td>
<td>“17 yrs of marriage, he had always threatened to kill me if I ever left him &amp; I believed him”–Michele, DE. Support #VAWA 4vawa.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>@SenatorDurbin, @janschakowsky, @JerryCostello, @RepMikeQuigley, @RepJJr, @PeterRoskam, @RepJoeWalsh, @RepDold, @RepKinzinger, @JudyBiggert, @RepHultgren, @donmanzullo, @reptimjohnson, @RepSchilling, @repaaronschock, @RepShimkus, @SenatorKirk, @RepBobbyRush</td>
<td>“They beat me &amp; raped me, after that my whole life was different.” –Gabe of IL. Support a #VAWA tht helps all survivors 4vawa.org</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sexual assault of men remains “a silent epidemic” –Gabe of IL. Support a #VAWA tht helps all victims of violence 4vawa.org</td>
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<td>@senatorkirk Mary in IL got a work permit through #VAWA after suffering domestic abuse while pregnant. Will you support all victims?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>@JohnKerry, @MarkeyMemo, @RepMcGovern, @nikiinthehouse, @RepTierney, @USSenScottBrown, @RepRichardNeal, @RepJohnOlver, @RepStephenLynch, @USRepKeating</td>
<td>@ussenscottbrown Elizabeth, MA, still lives in hiding from her husband &amp; the community is scared 2 contact her. Will u protect victims? #VAWA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>@JeanneShaheen, @repfrankguinta, @repcharlesbass</td>
<td>He used a knife 2 cut Yvette’s (NH) throat &amp; genitals while assaulting her. She was 12, he was her brother. Save #VAWA 4vawa.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Twitter Handles</td>
<td>Story</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>@SenatorMenendez, @FrankLautenberg, @Rep_Albio_Sires, @FrankPallone, @replobiondo, @CongRothman, @RepAndrews</td>
<td>Sara in NJ applied for legal status under #VAWA since her abusive husband liked to threaten deportation. Help others apply <a href="http://bit.ly/PIK9zJ">http://bit.ly/PIK9zJ</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>@SenatorTomUdall, @repstevepearce, @repbenraylujan</td>
<td>He put a knife to Veronica’s throat &amp; threatened to have her &amp; her fam deported from NM. No 1 deserves abuse. #Vawa4all 4vawa.org</td>
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<td>Luisa from NM suffers from insomnia for fear that something would happen to her at night. Keep her safe! #Vawa <a href="http://bit.ly/PIK9zJ">http://bit.ly/PIK9zJ</a></td>
</tr>
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<td>@senatortomudall: he showed Luisa, immigrant from NM, his knives, guns and ability to use them. Will u protect all victims? #Vawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>@SenGillibrand, @ChuckSchumer, @cbrangel, @GregoryMeeks, @RepSteveIsrael, @RepBrianHiggins, @louiseslaughter, @paultonko, @RepMcCarthyNY, @YvetteClarke, @NitaLowey, @repjoecrowley, @BillOwensNY, @TimBishopNY, -@reppeteking, @repmichaelgrimm, @repnanhayworth, @reprichardhanna, @repbuerkle, @reptomreed, @RepJerryNadler, @RepGaryAckerman, @RepKathyHochul, @RepEliotEngel, @RepMaloney, @RepJoseSerrano, @mauricehinchey, @EdTownes</td>
<td>“We all deserve to be treated with dignity, respect &amp; love” – Laura, from NY. Support #RealVAWA, protect ALL victims <a href="http://4vawa.org">4vawa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>@SenSherrodbrown, @Dennis_Kucinich, @RepTimRyan, @marciafudge, @robportman, @repstevechabot, @johnboehner</td>
<td>Eunice, from OH, was slapped and locked in her closet for failing to satisfy her partner. Will u support all...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A community-based org tht helps Black/Latino LGBT was denied #VAWA funding bc it was “ineligible.” Protect all victims 4vawa.org

Sara in NJ applied 4 legal status under #VAWA since her abusive husband liked 2 threaten deportation. Help others apply http://bit.ly/PIK9zJ

@NancyPelosi, He tried 2 carry out a murder-suicide plan after physically & emotionally abusing Andrea, a CA imm. Will u support #vawa4all?

@senatorreid Plz support #vawa4all. He chained Claire, an immigrant, to the radiator, beat her with a cord & raped her. 4vawa.org

Claire was able to escape abuse & obtain permanent residency through #VAWA. Give others this chance – call your reps! http://bit.ly/PIK9zJ

He put a knife to Veronica’s throat & threatened to have her & her fam deported from NM. No1 deserves abuse. #vawa4all 4vawa.org

@senatortomudall: he showed Luisa, immigrant from NM, his knives, guns and ability to use them. Will u protect all victims? #VAWA

The stability Luisa in NM gained through #VAWA helped her feel a sense of safety. Protect all victims! Take action http://bit.ly/PIK9zJ
@NancyPelosi Jorge pushed Gisela from CA to the floor, pointed a gun at her & shot a window. Immigrants r victims too. Will u support #VAWA?

“For a big part of my life I carried this huge burden...a burden of silence” – Donna, Native American sexual assault survivor #VAWA

Ester a native woman from AK was sexually assaulted by her cousin when she was only 14! Support #vawa4all 4vawa.org

“My older cousin would sexually abuse me ...I thought it was my fault...I had no power. I had no control.” – Donna, AK #vawa4all

“The sexual abuse, had gone 2 the very core of my human spirit and it had taken away who I was, who I was meant 2 be” – Donna, AK #vawa4all

1 in 3 Native American women will be sexually abused during their lifetime. #takeaction pass #vawa4all 4vawa.org

“[Sexual Abuse] is not a racial story – it affects every nationality, every tribe” – Donna, native woman, AK #vawa4all

“My father found out about the rape and he blamed me for what happened” – native woman, AK. Support #vawa4all 4vawa.org

@senatorreid Plz support #vawa4all. He chained Claire, an immigrant, to the radiator, beat her with a cord & raped her 4vawa.org

USE FACEBOOK? ACTION: POST THESE TO YOUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND ASK YOUR FRIENDS TO SHARE

Sample Facebook Posts

We should all agree that where a person lives, their immigration status, or who they love should not determine whether or not perpetrators of violence are brought to justice. Please join us in calling on Speaker Boehner to follow the lead of Republicans and Democrats in the Senate, and tell him it’s time to provide new protections to millions of people by passing the inclusive bipartisan Violence Against Women Act!

There are already 7500 people who signed the petition. Be a part of the change and show your support by clicking the link below!

http://chn.ge/OyuCov

“Although nothing will ever change the horrific and violent events of that day, I am filled with hope for a brighter future because of the services these people provided for my family.” – Julie in FL. Support the Real VAWA that expands protection for survivors. Visit http://4vawa.org/ for more info!

10 armed youths repeatedly raped a Floridian woman and poured household chemicals over her body. This victim was not protected by VAWA, but would be under the new Senate version. Take Action Now: http://bit.ly/PIK9zl

“As a member of this body, as a survivor of sexual assault, battery, and from age five through my teenage years, through my early adulthood, I can tell you that it is very traumatic to be here in this body today and
to find my colleagues not taking the recommended updates...” – @RepGwenMoore (D-Wis). Tell your reps to vote for the Real VAWA [http://bit.ly/PiK9zJ](http://bit.ly/PiK9zJ)

Jenny in AZ had just graduated from college when she became a victim of James Allen Selby, an armed serial rapist who had broken into her home. “Even today, I look behind the door every time I enter a bedroom” Support survivors, support VAWA. [http://4vawa.org/](http://4vawa.org/)

**WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR IN YOUR LOCAL PAPER – CONGRESS PEOPLE ARE HOME AND READING THOSE LETTERS!**

Congress will be home for all of August 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.*

*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. On the next page is an updated fact sheet to help you with all of your advocacy!*
VAWA: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is happening with VAWA reauthorization?
A strong, bipartisan reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (S.1925) passed the Senate on 4/26/12 by a vote of 68 to 31 (2/3 of the Senate supported the proposals recommended by the field). Your calls and support made that possible! On May 16, a House bill (H.R. 4970) narrowly passed by a vote of 222 to 205. H.R. 4970 is an unsupported version of reauthorization that left out all the protections for LGBTQ and Native American women victims of violence, significantly rolled back protections for battered and abused immigrants, and imposed wasteful government growing measures. Although key differences are significant, the two bills have many of the same important provisions. Now, Congress must prioritize moving forward on VAWA, using a victim-centered lens to develop a bill that will pass both chambers and be sent to the President.

How does calling my Congressperson help pass VAWA?
Calling your Representatives and Senators lets them know that passing VAWA matters to the people who elected them! It shows them we care and are not going to stop calling until they pass a VAWA bill that safely and effectively protects all victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Why do we need to reauthorize VAWA now?

Justice and safety for Native American Women: Native American victims of domestic violence often cannot seek justice because their courts are not allowed to prosecute non-Native offenders—even for crimes committed on Tribal land. This major gap in justice, safety, and violence prevention must be addressed. The Senate version identifies a solution for this that would give tribal courts the authority they need to hold offenders in their communities accountable.

Justice and Safety for LGBT survivors: Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, and Bisexual survivors of violence sometimes face discrimination when seeking help and protection. The Senate version of VAWA prohibits this discrimination because all victims of violence should have access to the same services and protection to overcome trauma and find safety. They shouldn't wait any longer to be granted that protection.

Safe Housing for Survivors: Landmark VAWA housing protections that were passed in 2005 have helped prevent discrimination against and unjust evictions of survivors of domestic violence in public and assisted housing. The law, however, did not cover all federally subsidized housing programs. In VAWA 2011, there is an opportunity to expand these protections to all federally subsidized housing, explicitly protect victims of sexual assault and address the pressing need for emergency housing transfers.

Maintaining VAWA grant programs: VAWA grants are effectively meeting the needs of millions of victims across the country. Many important improvements have been recommended to the grant programs, including allowing state domestic violence coalitions to be the lead applicant on Grants to Encourage Arrest program, ensuring that specific stakeholders, including domestic violence coalitions, play a meaningful role in developing state STOP plans, and providing a formal process for OVW to receive coalition and other key domestic violence and sexual assault community input. While it is likely that the VAWA grant programs will continue to be funded, the reauthorization of VAWA ensures on-going funding for grant programs through the annual federal appropriations process.

Without VAWA’s passage, these important improvements will be lost. Passing a strong, bipartisan VAWA immediately means that survivors do not have to wait for safety or for justice.