Please forward widely!

January 17, 2012

Exciting times for the Violence Against Women Act – We must reauthorize it this year and advocates across the country need to reach out to Congress and ask for sponsorship and support for VAWA. We will use meetings, phones, letters, online advocacy and social media – and anything else that helps us clarify the problem and promote the programs and issues that are important to us in our determination to stop sexual and domestic violence. If you have questions or want to report back about your efforts or results, please email ReauthorizeVAWA@gmail.com. Check out our new website and let us know what more we can include to make this site a great resource: www.4vawa.org

TAKE ACTION TODAY!

Suggested actions for this week include:

1. Email Congress and tell them what this VAWA means to all of us!
2. Ask Senate Judiciary committee members from your state who aren’t yet VAWA co-sponsors to join us today!
3. Participate in the #ReauthorizeVAWA Twitter Carnival on Wednesday at noon eastern!

**Action 1: Email your Senators (http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)** TODAY with this message:

VAWA reauthorization legislation, S. 1925 by Senators Leahy and Crapo, was developed with the input of advocates from around the country and from all walks of life and addresses the real and most important needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. It is responsive, streamlined and constitutionally and fiscally sound while providing strong accountability measures and appropriate federal government oversight. This legislation represents our voices—the voices of victims and advocates. I ask you to wholeheartedly support the swift passage of S. 1925.
Thank them if they are sponsors and ask them to join Senators Leahy and Crapo if they are not already sponsors. Go to [www.thomas.loc.gov](http://www.thomas.loc.gov) and type in the bill S.1925 for a list of sponsors.

**Action 2:** The Senate Judiciary Committee, Chaired by Senator Leahy, will be the first place VAWA reauthorization legislation is voted on by our members of Congress. We expect VAWA to be “marked-up” in the Judiciary committee as early as the last week of January. The following members of the Senate Judiciary Committee are not yet listed as co-sponsors of VAWA, and they need to hear from us that we want their visible support as co-sponsors of S. 1925 before the Committee vote:

**Tom Coburn**  
R-Oklahoma

**Christopher A. Coons**  
D-Delaware

**John Cornyn**  
R-Texas

**Dianne Feinstein**  
D-California

**Lindsey Graham**  
R-South Carolin

**Chuck Grassley**  
Ranking Member, R-Iowa

**Orrin G. Hatch**  
R-Utah

**Jon Kyl**  
R-Arizona

**Michael S. Lee**  
R-Utah

**Jeff Sessions**  
R-Alabama
**Action 3: Participate in the #ReauthorizeVAWA Twitter Carnival on Wednesday, January 18th at 12pm EST, 11am CST, 10am MST, 9am PST**

HUGE thanks to all who all who have been tweeting about VAWA. **Now we need to make #ReauthorizeVAWA a trending topic on twitter.** In order to do that we need a lot of people to tweet messages including the hashtag #ReauthorizeVAWA in a SHORT amount of time.

**The bigger a splash we can make by sharing this, the better!**
You can help us trend #ReauthorizeVAWA by tweeting this message on Wednesday, January 18th at noon EST:

*We urge all Senators to support S. 1925 and #ReauthorizeVAWA now! [4vawa.org](http://4vawa.org)*

If you can’t/won’t be in front of your computers at noon you can still send out the post on twitter at noon by signing up for [http://www.hootsuite.com](http://www.hootsuite.com) and scheduling your message to post on January 18th at noon (just make sure you’re time settings are for EST). During the Twitter Carnival, you should also retweet and respond to the twitters of others – always including #ReauthorizeVAWA.

**Thanks for the terrific tweets already out there!**

To see if your Senator has signed on to VAWA, go to [http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php](http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php) and type in S. 1925 in the bill search box.

Check our website for updates: [www.4vawa.org](http://www.4vawa.org)

Check out and “like” our Facebook page where you can find a toolkit and other action and information items: [http://on.fb.me/NTF_Facebook_page](http://on.fb.me/NTF_Facebook_page)

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](mailto:sblack@icasa.org).