February 15, 2013

We’re Half Way there – Now it’s TIME for the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES to PASS VAWA!

Contact your Representative while they are in district next week!

On Tuesday, the Senate passed S. 47, a strong, inclusive bill to reauthorize the landmark Violence Against Women Act sponsored by Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Michael Crapo (R-ID), by a 78-22 bipartisan vote! Thank you for all of your hard work to make this happen! And thank you to our Senate champions and the Administration for their unwavering support.

Now we need to tell the House of Representatives to bring the bipartisan Senate bill to the House floor for a vote – and to get this done immediately! Right now the House leadership is pondering about what direction to take on VAWA. Speaker Boehner has given us an opening, saying “No decision has been made about...whether we take up the Senate bill or move our own version of the bill.” We need to help Speaker Boehner and the House decide to take up the Senate bill S. 47. The House is on recess next week so call your district offices and/or visit your representative in their district office. Survivors of violence cannot wait any longer!

NTF is circulating a letter urging the House of Representatives to immediately take up the bipartisan Senate-passed VAWA and pass this inclusive bill that protects all survivors. This letter has the same message as the Senate letter submitted last week. Senator Leahy waved it around when he spoke on the Senate floor just minutes before VAWA’s final passage. If you or your organization has already signed the Senate version of this letter, we will include your name unless you opt out (email qjafree@ywca.org). To add your organization, go here HERE or tweet-friendly go HERE.

ACTION ITEM 1: THANK YOUR SENATORS WHO VOTED FOR S. 47

Please thank your Senator(s) who voted for the final VAWA.

ACTION ITEM 2: CALL OR VISIT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TODAY!!

Find your representative http://www.house.gov/representatives/ and click on their webpage to get their district office number – call them at their district office or make an appointment to visit them for next week. When you’re connected to their offices, ask to speak to the staff person who handles VAWA.
If your Representative is one of the 201 sponsors Democratic sponsors of the House version of the Senate VAWA (H.R. 11), thank them profusely and encourage them to talk to and work with their Republican colleagues to get a bipartisan VAWA passed. (For further updates on sponsors, go to http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php, choose Bill number, type in H.R. 11 and search.)

If your Representative is one of the 17 Republicans who signed onto a letter to Republican House leadership urging a bipartisan VAWA that reaches all victims thank them and urge them to talk to Speaker Boehner and Majority Leader Cantor and suggest to them that the Senate bill should be considered on the House floor. See letter and signatories here. Twitter handles for these members are at http://www.tweetcongress.org.

If your Representative is NOT on the sponsor list or the Republican letter, call them and tell (or leave a message for) the staff person:

1) I am a constituent from (city and state) and my name is _________.

2) I want to urge Representative ________ to support a strong, bipartisan, inclusive Violence Against Women Act and hope that they will urge Speaker Boehner to bring the recently-passed bipartisan Senate VAWA (S.47) to the House floor immediately. As you know, VAWA passed the Senate on Tuesday with a resounding bipartisan vote of 78-22 in favor of an all-embracing bill that strives to serve all victims of violence in our communities, homes, campuses and workplaces all around the country.

ACTION ITEM 3: TWEET YOUR REPRESENTATIVES:

If you can’t call or visit, tweet your representative next week. You can find their Twitter handle at http://www.tweetcongress.org/ and tell them:

@TWITTERHANDLE Tell Speaker Boehner to decide on #VAWA + take up bipartisan S.47 in the House. Pass a bill that protects ALL survivors!

Also, thank the Senators who voted for S. 47 with this tweet:

@TWITTERHANDLE Thank you for voting yes for S. 47, a bipartisan #VAWA that supports ALL survivors of violence!