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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ONE STEP CLOSER TO THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Advocates applaud the Senate Judiciary Committee's action on VAWA

(September 8, 2005) Washington, DC – Understanding the urgency to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) before it expires on September 30th of this year, the Senate Judiciary Committee today reported the bill to the full Senate for consideration. The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) and advocates across the country thank the Senate Judiciary Committee today for moving VAWA out of committee prior to starting nomination hearings for Supreme Court nominee John G. Roberts.

“Amidst all the urgent business presented before the Judiciary Committee, Chairman Specter, Senators Biden and Hatch and their colleagues have worked diligently to reauthorize VAWA before it expires on September 30th,” said Lynn Rosenthal, president of NNEDV. “We greatly appreciate their leadership in working to end these terrible crimes.”

The bipartisan Senate bill – S. 1197 – includes provisions for improving the response of the criminal justice and legal systems; reauthorizing critical programs and developing new services that respond to evolving community needs; creating programs that focus on violence prevention and intervention; developing a comprehensive approach for assisting children, teens and young adults who experience violence; creating solutions to prevent victims and their children from becoming homeless; closing the gap in the delivery of health care to domestic violence and sexual assault survivors; highlighting the needs of immigrant communities; and providing funding for rape crisis centers and other agencies to provide advocacy services to victims of sexual assault.

In July, the House of Representatives marked up the Department of Justice Authorization Act that includes the criminal justice and legal provisions of VAWA. A House bill encompassing similar provisions to that of S. 1197 was introduced in June by Rep. Mark Green (R-WI).

NNEDV has been a leading force in efforts to support VAWA. As a member of the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women, NNEDV has played an influential role in the current Senate bill. NNEDV and its member state domestic violence coalitions also played crucial roles in the passage of VAWA in 1994 and its reauthorization in 2000. NNEDV's sister organization, the National Network to

End Domestic Violence Fund (NNEDV Fund), has been instrumental in assisting state domestic violence coalitions and local communities in implementing current VAWA programs.

National Network to End Domestic Violence

The National Network to End Domestic Violence a social change organization representing state domestic violence coalitions, is dedicated to creating a social, political and economic environment in which violence against women no longer exists. For more information, please visit www.nnedv.org.

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